Behind the Scenes
This space is for talking about the creative process, not your silly rambling!
SMACK
I GET SMACKED FOR BEING A LOSER.
AND I WEAR SHIRTS THAT HAVE WIDE SLEEVES
THERE ARE A LOT OF DOORS ALONG THE HALLWAY
Bath-room bath-room
< SFX crash >
squeak
SNAG
< SFX thud >

Two months before release of the special edition

STAAAARE
Ah, I'll be done soon. I want to play video games~
Yum~ this plum flavored seaweed is really good
STAAAARE
Hmmph
Gotta die the undercover
collapse
DON'T TURN YOUR BACKS ON ME! SHOW ME SOME PROOF!
YOU'RE EVIL...! NITPICKING AT MY DRAWINGS..!
Please vigilantly watch over me.

Special Thanks

KAINA-SAN / KOMO-SAN / YUKINO-SAN / NAGI-SAN / YUTAKA-SAMA / THE HEAD PRIEST / N-CHAN / G-SAN FOR THEIR WRITING HELP. MY FAMILY FOR ALWAYS LOOKING AFTER ME. MY EDITOR FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT. ALL OF THE READERS

Thank-You!!

We've all been on a diet at my house

46kg

SEE IT WHILE IT LASTS

See you next time!

2006年9月15日(金) までに書店へお申し込み下さい

雑誌扱い・買切商品

あまつき 4 限定版

著者:高山しのぶ

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書店様へ この注文書は2006年9月15日(金)必着にて最寄り取次店(雑誌扱いコミックス担当窓口)までお送り下さい。

高山しのぶ
SHINOBU TAKAYAMA

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あまつき 5

高山しのぶ

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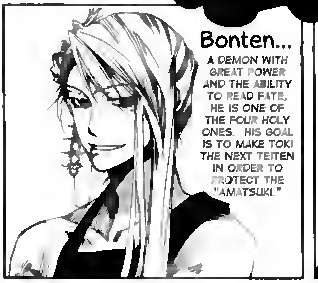
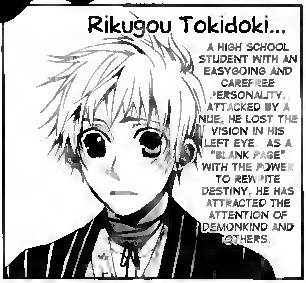
あまつき
五
高山しのぶ

characters



Bonten...

A DEMON WITH GREAT POWER AND THE ABILITY TO READ FATE, HE IS ONE OF THE FOUR HOLY ONES. HIS GOAL IS TO MAKE TOKI THE NEXT TEITEN IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE "AMATSUKI."



Rikugou Tokidoki...

A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WITH AN EASYGOING AND CAREFREE PERSONALITY. ATTACKED BY A NUE, HE LOST THE VISION IN HIS LEFT EYE. AS A "BLANK PAGE" WITH THE POWER TO REWRITE DESTINY, HE HAS ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF DEMONKIND AND OTHERS.

Shinshu...

SHINSHU'S YOUNGER SISTER. SHE IS GOING WITH TOKIDOKI TO FIND A WAY TO BREAK SHINSHU'S CURSE.

Ginshu...

THE HOLY PRIESTESS OF SAKAGAMI SHRINE. HER STRANGE APPEARANCE IS DUE TO A DEMON'S CURSE--SHE IS ONE OF THE FOUR HOLY ONES.

Shinonome Kon...

A CLASSMATE OF TOKI'S WHO BECAME LOST IN THE ALTERNATE WORLD TWO YEARS AGO. ORIGINALLY THEY WERE THE SAME AGE, BUT NOW HE IS TWO YEARS TOKI'S SENIOR. AT ONE POINT HE WAS A "BLANK PAGE", BUT NOW THAT POWER HAS DISAPPEARED.

precap

WHILE VISITING A HIGH-TECH VIRTUAL REALITY EXHIBIT ON JAPANESE HISTORY, TOKIDOKI WAS ATTACKED BY TWO SUPERNATURAL CREATURES CALLED THE "THE NUE" AND "THE YAKOU". TOKI WAS SAVED BY THE SWORDSWOMAN KUCHIHA. BUT HE FOUND HIMSELF TRAPPED IN A WORLD THAT RESEMBLED EDO DURING THE BAKUMATSU PERIOD WITH HELP FROM KUCHIHA AND KON, WHO CAME TO THE WORLD BEFORE HIM, TOKI IS ADJUSTING TO HIS NEW HOME.

THE DEMON BONTEN APPEARS BEFORE TOKI AND PRESENTS HIM WITH TWO CHOICES - TO BECOME THE "DESTROYER OF AMATSUKI," OR TO BECOME THE "MASTER OF AMATSUKI." HOWEVER, TOKIDOKI HEEDS SHINSHU'S REQUEST TO "BREAK THE CURSE" THAT AFFLICTS HER BROTHER, THE HOLY PRIESTESS OF A RELIGIOUS ORDER THAT EXTERMINATES DEMONS. FOLLOWING A TIP FROM BONTEN, TOKIDOKI AND HIS FRIENDS INVESTIGATE A DEMON-RELATED INCIDENT. AT THE SOURCE OF THE DISTURBANCE IS THE DEMON IMAYOU. ALSO INVOLVED ARE TSUIYUKUSA, A DEMON WHO PLEDGED HIS POWER TO IMAYOU; THE MEMBERS OF THE ANTI-DEMON ONMYOU BUREAU, THE YAKOU WHO SEEKS TO RECLAIM HIS CREATION, AND BONTEN HIMSELF, WHO CHASED AFTER TSUYUKUSA. ALL OF THEM GATHER IN NIHONBASHI. THERE TOKIDOKI USES HIS POWER AS THE "BLANK PAGE" TO SAVE IMAYOU.

MEANWHILE, GINSHU ATTEMPTS TO CHALLENGE TEITEN BUT FINDS HER LIFE IN TEITEN'S GRASP. IN THAT MOMENT, HE REMEMBERS WHEN HE FIRST MET BONTEN...

FROM THIS DAY FORTH, YOUR NAME WILL BE UTSUBUSHI
creak
IF YOU COME WITH ME,
I WILL [illegible] YOU THE VASTEST SKIES AND THE HIGHEST VIEWS

FROM THIS DAY FORTH, YOUR NAME WILL BE UTSUBUSHI
creak
IF YOU COME WITH ME,
I WILL SHOW YOU THE VASTEST SKIES AND THE HIGHEST VIEWS

第二十五夜：胡蝶の夢
限定版：10月25日（水）発売!!
詳しくは6頁をチェック!!

現在発売中の「WARD」13号より
新連載「MR.MORNING」がスタート!!
そちらもチェックしてね。
運命の出会い!?
高山しのぶ
「あまつき」第4巻、小冊子付き
予約受付〆切迫る――!

Chapter 25: Butterfly's Dream

I PLEDGE MYSELF TO SERVE THE HOLY PRINCESS.
WELL, THEN...
IT SEEMS THAT I, SASAKI TADAJIROU, WILL BE COMING FROM NOW ON.
THE SHOUGUN'S GOVERNMENT MUST BE DESPERATE TO ALLY WITH US.
SOMEONE NEW AGAIN?
OH?
TSUKUME,
YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING, HAVEN'T YOU?
I CAN'T SIT THROUGH ANOTHER INTERVIEW
CERTAINLY THEY CAN'T HAVE THE SECOND SON OF SUCH A PRESTIGIOUS FAMILY GOING ABOUT LIKE SOME DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESMAN
There are already seven first and third brothers.
(sigh)
THAT WOULD BE A PITY

I'm exhausted.
Finally
THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY'S WORK
sigh
I THOUGHT IT WOULD NEVER END
GINSHU-SAMA!
What?
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
sigh
PEOPLE CAN'T SEE YOU LIKE THIS!
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE HOLY PRINCESS!

Hanona
But I don't have any power as a priestess
Big brother! run run run
Ah!
Don't talk like that!! There's nothing the Holy Princess can't do!!
Alright, alright
anger
shake
shake
Big brother!!
Are you all done with work!?

CRASH
Waah!
Yes, I'm finished
Shnshu!
Ah!
Fuuuu
WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THREAT HAD BEEN PROMISED TO US
OUR DAYS BACK THEN WERE CALM AND CONTENT
Honestly... do they have no dignity?
Stuuugh

IF ONLY I COULD GO BACK TO THOSE DAYS AND PROTECT THOSE PEOPLE...
BUT WE SUSPECTED NOTHING.
I JUST DID THE WORK THAT I HAD BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH.
AND WHEN I FINISHED, I PLAYED WITH MY YOUNGER SISTER.
BEING "GINSHU" WAS SIMPLE
MY ROLE WAS TO "PROTECT."
IT SEEMED...
SO EASY...
crack

THIS BODY IS A SHIELD...
A MAGIC BARRIER ?
A MERE SHIELD LIKE ME NEEDED NO POWER
...
...IS IT THOSE DEMONS AGAIN?
YES... BUT EVEN SO
RUSTLE
HEY YOU
Oh dear
rustle
rustle

HE COULDN'T...
AREN'T YOU THE HOLY PRINCESS? THEY CALL YOU "SINSHU", RIGHT?
I'M SUR-PRISED...
THAT YOU'D COME TO ME ON YOUR OWN
HE COULDN'T STAY A LITTLE BIRD FOREVER...

ARE YOU SO STUPID THAT YOU CAN'T TELL I'M A DEMON?
WITH A FACE THAT DUMB THERE'S NO HOPE FOR YOU.
SO? A DEMON APPEARS RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES, AND ALL YOU'RE GONNA DO IS LOOK?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO FIGHT ME?

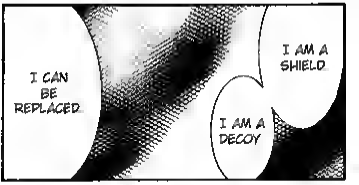
YOU'RE AN "OTORO-SHI!"
"OTOROSHI" – A DEMON THAT LURKS ON TOP OF TORII GATES AT SHINTO SHRINES. IT'S A GUARDIAN OF THE GODS, AND IT HAS A FEARSOME FACE
GLARE
?
I get it!
Oh!
CLAP
YOU'RE SITTING ON THE TORII GATE, SO IT'S OBVIOUS...
SURPRISE
FUFU, I'VE SEEN RIGHT THROUGH YOUR DISGUISE!
DO YOU REALLY THINK I LOOK LIKE THAT!?
ARE YOU THAT STUPID!?
BUT YOU'RE ON THE TORII GATE... AM I WRONG?
I thought it was an easy one
IT'S OBVIOUS!!
Shock
WHAT?

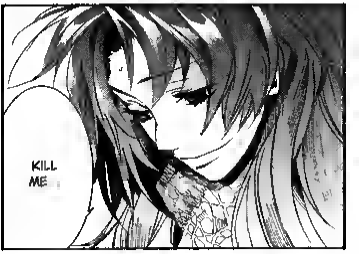
WH. TEVER.
UM, ARE YOU A YAMAWARO SPIRIT...?
I'M JUST THE NAMELESS DEMON THAT'S GOING TO KILL YOU.
< SFX: jump >
< T/N: A yamawaro is a one-eyed mountain monster >
< SFX: grab >

YOU'VE BEEN HUNTING DEMONS FOR THE HUMANS, AND THAT'S MAKING THEM ANGRY.
SO IF I KILL YOU, MAYBE THEY'LL TAKE ME UP WITH THEM?
IS THAT A GOOD ENOUGH REASON TO KILL SOMEONE?
...IF THAT'S YOUR REASON...
THEN KILLING ME WOULD BE MEANINGLESS.

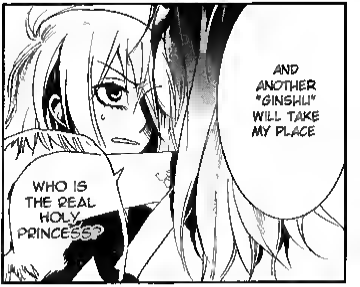
DO YOU KNOW WHAT "GINSHU" MEANS?
IT MEANS "ARTIFICIAL CINNABAR."
DO YOU THINK THE REAL HOLY PRINCESS WOULD BE GIVEN A NAME LIKE THAT?
So... YOU'RE JUST A FAKE!?
.....!?

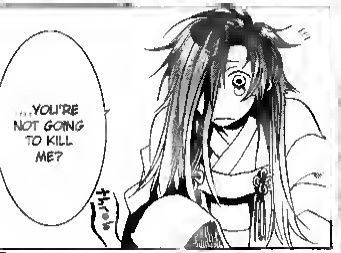
GAAH!
DAMN IT!!
stomp


I AM A SHIELD
I AM A DECOY
I CAN BE REPLACED


KILL ME

Waaaaah, my foot's going to fall off!
Owwwwww


AND ANOTHER "GINSHI" WILL TAKE MY PLACE
WHO IS THE REAL HOLY PRINCESS?


...YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL ME?

WHY... SHOULD I TELL YOU...?
hmph

NOW WOULD YOU GO AWAY? YOU DISGUST ME!
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON SOME THROWAWAY FAKE

...AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING?

rustle
Princess
rustle
OH, THERE THEY ARE!
pat pat

YOU SHOULD RUN PEOPLE WILL BE COMING

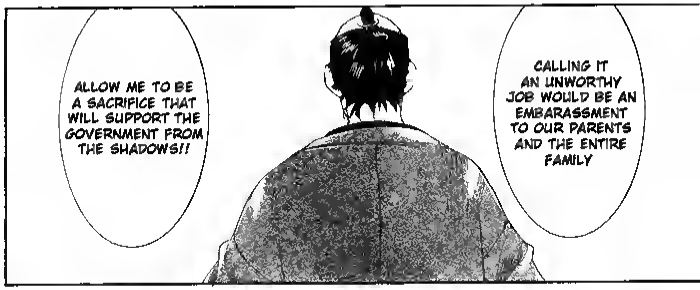
IT SEEMS
YOU'RE UNDER-ESTIMATING ME
Huh?

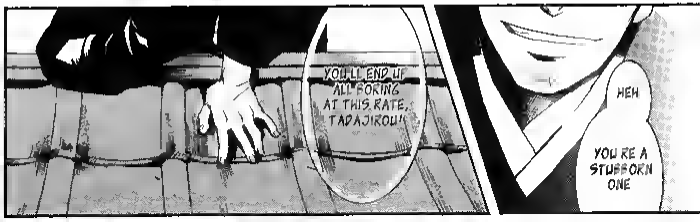
COME NOW,
QUICKLY, QUICKLY!
Wah!
Wah!
Hey!
SOME VERY SCARY GIRLS ARE COMING!
NEXT TIME YOU COME BE A GOOD BOY AND WAIT OUTSIDE THE BARRIER.
I'LL LET YOU INSIDE
RUSTLE
ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHING!?
< SFX rustle >
Gin-
shu-
sama!!
Oh
Pant

Oh, I'm fine
GINSHU-SAMA!
JUST NOW, THE BARRIER WAS BROKEN...!?
Gasp
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
Gasp
THERE'S BEEN AN URGENT CALL FOR YOU INSIDE
BUT GINSHU-SAMA...
A TROUBLESOME LITTLE BIRD WAS STUCK, SO I HAD TO LET HIM GO
Ehehehe
WHAT?

THIS IS INSANE!!
BROTHER, WHY WOULD YOU ACCEPT SUCH AN ASSIGNMENT?!!
THE SASAKI FAMILY WILL NOT BE REDUCED TO DOING SUCH MENIAL CHORES...!!
I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE THE ORDERS CAME FROM ABOVE, SO I RESPECTFULLY ACCEPTED THEM.
BUT OUR BROTHER ICHIROU IS AN IMORTANT GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE DOING WORK LIKE THIS, JIKOU.

OUR OLDER BROTHER PROTECTS THE COUNTRY BY GOVERNMENT AND LAW, SO I'LL SERVE THE COUNTRY WITH MY MAGIC!
BUT BROTHER...
A JOB IS A JOB
grip
DON'T COMPLAIN SO MUCH SABURO!


ALLOW ME TO BE A SACRIFICE THAT WILL SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT FROM THE SHADOWS!!
CALLING IT AN UNWORTHY JOB WOULD BE AN EMBARASSMENT TO OUR PARENTS AND THE ENTIRE FAMILY


YOU'LL END UP ALL FORLORN AT THIS RATE, TADAJIKOU!
HEH
YOU'RE A STUBBORN ONE

SHAMON!
Wah!
sho ck
Fidget

You've gotta follow your heart!!

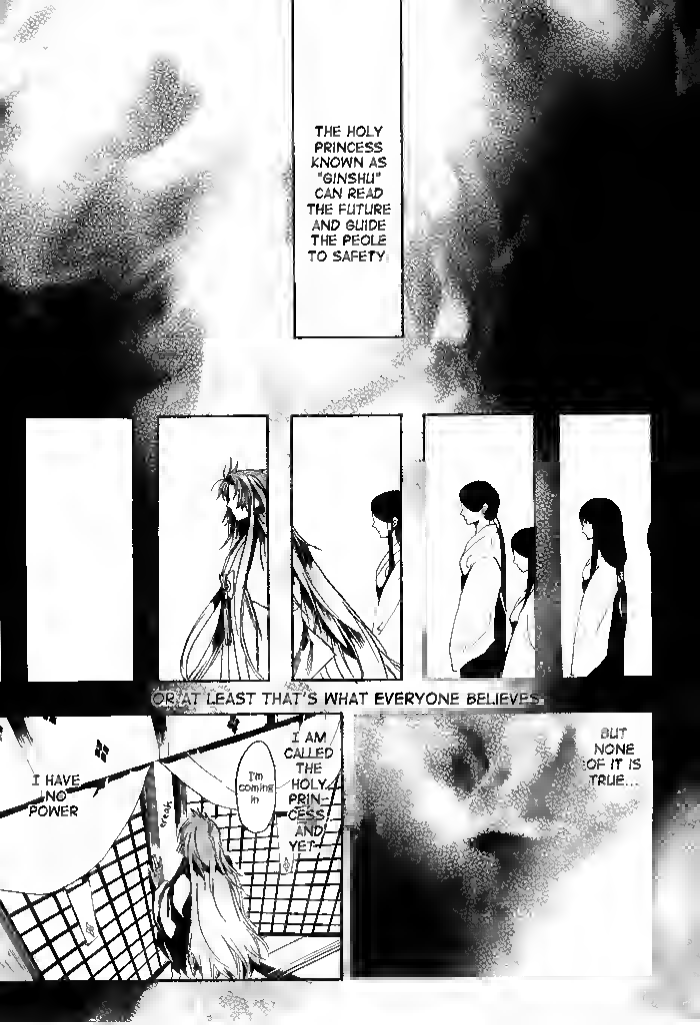
Fidget
Hey!!
If you don't leave the door open, how am I supposed to get in!?

Like me!

TADASABUROU, LET'S HAVE TEA. COULD YOU GO INSIDE AND PREPARE IT?
YES
thump
TADASA-BUROU?
YES?
Ping
< SFX crash >
NOT AGAIN, SHAMON-SAMA!
PLEASE COME THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR! HOW MANY TIMES DO WE HAVE TO TELL YOU?
That was mean! You knocked me down!
Owww
BUT THIS WAY IS FASTER!
This house is way too big
wave wave

Huh!? The same business!?
YOU MUST BE WONDERING HOW SOMEONE WHO CAN'T SEE DEMONS CAN SAY THAT.
AHAHA. YOU NEVER CHANGE. YOU'RE SUCH AN IRRESPONSIBLE MONK.
WELL, IT'S ALRIGHT IF YOU DROP BY. WE ARE IN THE SAME BUSINESS, AFTER ALL.
IT'S TRUE. I CAN'T SEE THEM.
I'LL HAVE TO START FROM THERE.

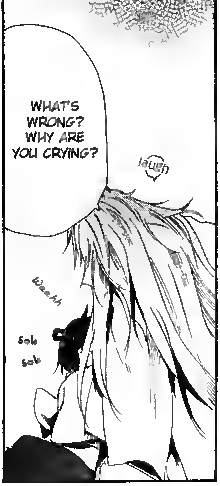
I'LL REGRET NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE...
THESE BEAUTIFUL THINGS THAT ARE SO DEAR TO ME
...TADAJIROU? WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU THINKING...?
I'LL RISE UP...
AND SHOW YOU...
MY TRUE STRENGTH.


THE HOLY PRINCESS KNOWN AS "GINSHU" CAN READ THE FUTURE AND GUIDE THE PEOLE TO SAFETY.
OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE BELIEVES.
I HAVE NO POWER
I'm coming in
I AM CALLED THE HOLY PRINCESS! AND YET--
BUT NONE OF IT IS TRUE...

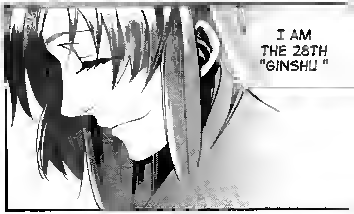
ONLY THE MOST SENIOR PRIESTESSES KNOW THE TRUTH
YOU'RE LATE, GINSHU
SHINSHU-SAMA WAS CALLING YOU
PLEASE FORGIVE ME MA'AM
NATURALLY WE WOULD PREFER SHINSHU-SAMA
BUT THIS IS YOUR DUTY AS THE ONE WHO CARRIES THE NAME "GINSHU"
NOW, YOU MUST LISTEN CLOSELY
YES, MA'AM

キキ
"GINSHU" SERVES AS A SHIELD FOR "SHINSHU."
< SFX: creak >
THESE WORDS TO YOU
SHE BEQUEATHS.
. Brother!!

"GINSHU'S" ROLE IS THAT OF A DECOY, A SACRIFICE. IT HAS BEEN THIS WAY FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.
It's alright


WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
Waahh
Sob Sob

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE.
BUT FOR "SHINSHU"...


I AM THE 28TH "GINSHU."

THE WORDS THAT ISSUE FROM THOSE LIPS SPEAK OF THE FUTURE.
SHINSHU IS THE IMMORTAL CHILD OF THE GODS.

It was...
Brother... it was terrible...
There was... a monster...
THAT FUTURE CANNOT BE CHANGED.
We...
Will lose to the demons...
THAT FUTURE WILL INEVITABLY COME.
The demons...
Ate up the whole world

ALL IS DECIDED BY HEAVEN
TOMORROW'S STORY HAS BEEN WRITTEN
They said "you're not needed anymore" and everything disappeared
GINSHU, HUH?
ZERO

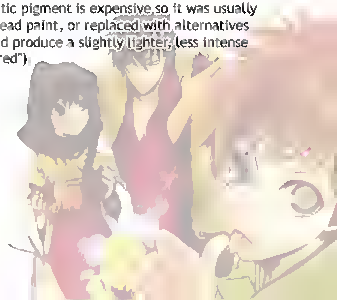
Hana-mi
http://hana-mi.net
presents
Takaya and Shinobu's
Amatsuki
Vol. 5
Ch. 25
Translator: Kanuka
Raw scans: Anonymous
Volume cover and pages scans: Finem
Cleaner: Finem
Editors: Chez
Do not remove this credits page from this release
http://amatsuki_manga.livejournal.com

Translator's Note:

(Just one because it was too big to fit on the actual page ^_^)

PAGE 20:

Traditional Japanese lacquerware and pottery glazes are made with cinnabar (also called vermillion), which produces the deep, dark red color known as "shinshu" ("true red"). Cinnabar can be mined for use in pigments, but it's extremely expensive. In the 8th century, Chinese alchemists discovered how to make synthetic vermillion (mercuric sulfide), but even the synthetic pigment is expensive,so it was usually adulterated with cheap red lead paint, or replaced with alternatives like cadmium red. This would produce a slightly lighter, less intense color called "ginshu" ("silver red").

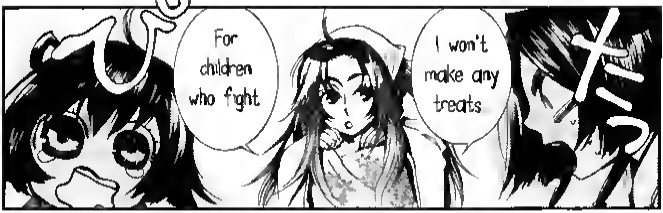


.....
meow
meow
Oooh...
Hey, Shinshu!
I made you a snack!
Are you hungry?
Shinshu and Ginshu, those roles they play... chapter two of their past starts here!

Not until you wash your hands!
Oooh, no you don't!
WAVE
GRAB
GRAB
WAVE
Jump
FOOD!!
GASP
YOU ARE SO LIN-PRIEST-ESS-Y!!
HA HA HA HA
I was just joking!
TADAA♡
Go get it!
DASH
JUMP
GINSHU-SAMA!!
THANK YOU,
BIG BROTHER!
I'm sorry, Shinshu~
Ouch
Don't play with your food!

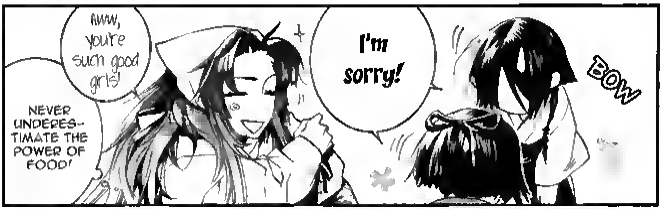
COTTON ROBES!
Oh? They don't suit me?
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM !!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!! THE HOLY PRINCESS SPENDS TIME IN THE KITCHEN...
AND HOW WRETCHED TO BE SEEN IN SUCH ROUGH CLOTHES!!
Shhhh
I'm making cakes for you, so maybe you could be a little sweeter to me?
giggle
...Oh, Tsuruume?
HAVE A LITTLE MORE DIGNITY AND FOLLOW THE RULES...!!
...
MAYBE ONCE EVERY COUPLE OF DAYS WOULDN'T HURT...
drool
drool
SPUTTER
.....
...
~~~~
~~~
sweat
Wah...!!
Don't you want a little snack too~~~~?

Stare
...
It's just that you do such a good job of protecting someone as difficult and childish as myself that I simply had to make something for you.
chew chew
Oh no, I don't mean any disrespect, you know!
HEY!!
LAUGH
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?!!
I WANT TO HELP!!
HUH!?
waaah
!!
I WANT TO MAKE THINGS TOO!!
I JUST WANT TO HELP!!
I'M NOT!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU LITTLE TWERP!?
DON'T GO JUMPING ON PEOPLE LIKE THAT!!


For children who fight
I won't make any treats
<SFX: eeep>
<SFX: gasp>

Now say you're sorry
Alright?
<SFX: smile>

.....
wibble wibble


Awww, you're such good girls!
NEVER UNDERES-TIMATE THE POWER OF FOOD!
I'm sorry!
BOW

Ahhh, I made Tsuruuuine angry again

I THINK YOU'RE THE BEST, BIG BROTHER!
YOU'RE REALLY NICE AND YOU'RE LOTS OF FUN!
I'm really not a good Holy Princess, am I?
HUH?
-You really ought to call me "big sister" now, not "big brother", you know?
HMM...
BUT NOW YOU CAN'T PLAY WITH ME SOMETIMES AND THAT'S NOT FUN...
SOMETIMES I CAN'T SEE YOU AT ALL...
AND SOMETIMES YOU SAY THINGS I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

AND I KEEP FORGETTING!
It's alright
BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES "GINSHU" IS REPLACED, THE PROPHETIC DUTIES MUST CARRY ON UNBROKEN.
MEMORIES ARE FORGOTTEN, AND SHE REMEMBERS NOTHING.
THAT CHILD WILL NEVER AGE, AND THEREFORE HER HEART WILL NEVER MATURE.
AND FOR THAT REASON, THIS SHRINE HAS EXISTED SINCE ANCIENT TIMES TO EXTERMINATE THE DEMONS.
THE WORLD WILL MOST LIKELY BE DESTROYED
IF WE IGNORE THE DEMONS THEN SHINSHU'S PROPHECY WILL BE FULFILLED

...EVEN WE DO NOT KNOW.
HOWEVER, ONE THING IS CERTAIN.
-So Shinshu has been here since the founding of this shrine?
But for how many years...
So then it's only a matter of time...
THE SEAL ON HELL WILL BE BROKEN, AND ALL THE DEMONS WILL PUSH OUT...
SHINSHU'S FORESIGHT HAS NEVER BEEN WRONG.

They'll kill us all.
Ke ke
Come
Come
Young Master
Young Master
We're pulling you
Hear us.
Young Master
Our Master
Is there
Young Master
Young Master!
Hear us!
Ke ke
rustle
Hear ens Seat.
Is waiting.
rustle
rustle
Ke ke
Hear us!
Please follow us.
Come
Come
Ke ke
Byakuroku-sama.
...DID THEY SEND YOU TO ANNOY ME?
Hear us!
Ke ke
SFX. rustle

Come to Heaven's Seat...
HMPH...
THEY MUST BE DESPERATE IF THEY SENT WEAKLINGS LIKE YOU
Heaven's Seat
Heaven's Seat
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
Ke ke
Ke ke
Ke ke
It's all in jest...
All in good fun...
.....
Ke ke
Ke ke
TCH
.....
COWARD...
SO YOU JUST BOW DOWN AND TAKE ORDERS FROM HIM, HUH?
SO? HOW ABOUT TELLING ME WHAT YOU REALLY WANT?
I DON'T SEE YOU BOWING TO ME, RIGHT?

HEY...
FLAP
FLAP
SO YOU DID COME
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY YOU WERE COMING?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
I SEE YOU'RE STILL AS ILL-TEMPERED AS ALWAYS
I SUPPOSE I'LL NEVER GET TO SEE YOU SMILE—
ARE YOU STILL BEING BOTHERED BY THOSE LITTLE DEMONS?

...WHAT A LOAD OF BULLSHIT.
I DON'T HAVE A NAME.
I SUPPOSE IT CAN'T BE HELPED IF YOU HATE ME, EVEN THOUGH I AM THE ONE WHO NAMED YOU.
BUT YOU CANNOT CHANGE YOUR DESTINY, SO THE DEMONS WILL CONTINUE TO REVERE YOU
THEY'RE SO WEAK...
YOU SHOULD TREAT THEM WITH KINDNESS
OR EVENTUALLY THEY'LL COME TO HATE YOU. YOU KNOW?
...WHY SHOULD I CARE WHAT THEY THINK?
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO BE NICE BUT THEY WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE AND NOW YOU'RE HERE
LAUGH
YOU ARE STILL SUCH A WILFUL CHILD.

...WHY DID YOU GO THERE?
AND I HEARD... THAT A LITTLE BIRD WENT SOMEWHERE HE SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE
...BY THE WAY...
I CALLED FOR YOU, BUT YOU WEREN'T THERE
I THOUGHT I'D DESTROY THE ENEMY'S HEAD RIGHT FROM THE START.
I WOULD THINK YOU'D BE QUITE AFRAID TO VISIT A HUMAN SHRINE
THE "HOLY PRINCESS" IS NOT THE HEAD OF THE SHRINE.
...YOU MEAN THE HOLY PRINCESS?
BUT YOU HAVE THE WRONG PERSON.

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY IS NOT SO RECKLESSLY GRANTED.
SO, I BELIEVE THEY ARE HIDING THE ONE WHO POSSESSES THE TRUE POWER.
EVEN THE GREATEST OF DEMONS WOULD BE RENDERED POWERLESS.
BUT... IF YOU KNEW ALL THIS TIME...
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL EVERYONE?

.....!?
YOU KNEW ALL ALONG!

I HAVE LIVED FOR A VERY LONG TIME
AND IN MY LIFE, I HAVE SEEN THE "HOLY PRINCESS" REPLACED MANY TIMES
AND DO YOU BELIEVE THEY ALL HAD THE GIFT OF FORESIGHT? THAT WOULD BE EXTREMELY UNLIKELY

WERE THIS KNOWLEDGE TO BE WIDELY KNOWN, MANY WHO WOULD NOT COMPREHAND ITS MEANING WOULD REACT WILDLY
KNOWLEDGE IS ONLY USEFUL WHEN ONE HAS THE WISDOM TO APPLY IT.
THAT IS WHY I HAVE ONLY SHARED BITS AND PIECES OF THIS INFORMATION WITH OTHERS.
WHEN I SEE THAT THEY HAVE DIGESTED THE FRUIT OF KNOWLEDGE, I FEED THEM ANOTHER SMALL TIDBIT
HEH.
THAT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO DISCERN WHICH FRUIT WAS POISON.
DO NOT MAKE LIGHT OF THIS.
I DID NOT BELIEVE...
DID YOU THINK THAT IF I ATE TOO MUCH, I WOULD CHOKE?

<T/N: "hiwa" means a little bird, like a finch.>
...DO YOU HATE THE NAME I GAVE YOU SO INTENSELY?
YOU WERE SO SMALL AND LONELY...
I THOUGHT IT A SUITABLE NAME.
DON'T BE SO IMPERTI-NENT, HIWA.
DON'T CALL ME THAT!!
<SFX: thrash>
WON'T A TIME COME WHEN IT WILL TROUBLE YOU TO LACK A NAME FOR OTHERS TO CALL YOU BY?
HELL NO. NEVER.
...WELL THEN, HIWA...
WHEN I DIE, MY NAME SHALL PASS TO YOU.
I AM BYAKUROKU LORD OF THE HEAVENLY THRONE DOES THAT SUIT YOU?
ARE YOU STUPID?
I HATE THAT NAME MORE THAN ANYTHING

...MY, MY, WHAT AN UNRULY CHILD.
HMPH, DON'T BE CHILDISH. THE ACTIONS OF THE STUDENT ARE A REFLECTION ON THE TEACHER.
FORGIVE ME, MASTER. I'M STILL NOT READY TO BE A PARENT.
YOU DON'T DISCIPLINE THAT BOY ENOUGH, BYAKUROKU.
EVEN A SMALL BRANCH WILL FEEL PAIN IF IT IS BROKEN.
HISS

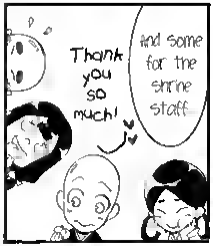
"POP
SO, A CHILD RAISED BY A TWISTED OLD TREE SPIRIT WILL TURN OUT TWISTED TOO?
ISN'T THAT A FACT?
WELL SAID
YOU BEASTS ARE TOO HOT-BLOODED
ARE YOU SAYING WE SHOULD NOT OPPOSE THE HUMANS?
WE'RE MERELY PROTECTING WHAT IS OURS
HUMANS DON'T RECOGNISE THE RIGHTS OF BEASTS
shake
THEY ARE MOTIVATED BY A DEEP GREED, COMPETITION ONLY ENCOURAGES THEM
PERHAPS IF YOU SHARED YOUR DEEP WISDOM WITH THEM, THEY WOULD...
Kuku kuku ~
PERHAPS YOUR MASTER ALSO THINKS THAT IF YOU EAT TOO MUCH, YOU MIGHT CHOKE?
Kuku ku~
!

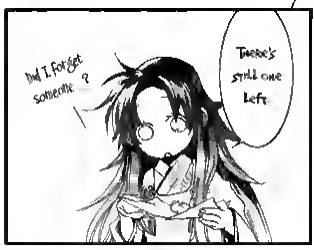
...SOON YOU'LL GROW A CUTTING, WON'T YOU?
HMM.
MY FLOWERS AND FRUITS HAVE WITHERED AWAY.
I WILL SOON DIE.
...BYAKURO-KU...
MY TIME HERE GROWS SHORT.
I SUPPOSE THE CHILD MUST BID FAREWELL TO THE FATHER.
I CANNOT.
YES, IF IT TAKES ROOT...
SO YOU MUST KEEP IT SAFE AND CALM.
...YES.

Hm..
Young Master
Hm..
Hm..
Hm..

HIWA...
TELL US...
YOU CARE FOR THE HOLY PRINCESS, DO YOU NOT?
WHEN WERE YOU GOING TO INTRODUCE US TO HER?
Eventually, they'll come to hate you.
GRIN

<T/N: It's a rice pastry filled with bean paste that's supposed to look like a camellia flower>





Hmm-

Maybe it's a demon?
The magic barrier is cracking-

I wonder if he'd eat it-

Or maybe-

.....

Hello?
Ah.
crackle
<SFX: Rustle>
Hello?
Um-
Otorosh—san or Madoki—san or whatever your name is, are you here?
crackle
crackle

SHOCK
Hey
Hey, you there!!
Are you alright?
.....!!

Bite marks?
Are these
No human could make wounds like this
Hey!!
What happened to you?
.....
.....
Hiss
What..?

...RUN
...!!

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Whoooosh
Grab
!
!
A DEMON ON SACRED GROUNDS

Chapter 27 - Butterfly's Dream - Part 3
高山しのぶ
限定版&通常版、
大好評発売中――!!

SFX crash
SFX menace
GAH!!
COUGH
WHAT?
「あまつき」最新第④巻、
含わせて全国書店にて

HAVE MADE A GRAVE MIS-TAKE.
YOU...
creak
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
creak
HI-WAA
YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU DE-SERVE...
crumble
crumble
YOU...
HE WAS JUST BAIT.
I SEE...

YOU...
YOU'RE NO FRIEND OF HIS, ARE YOU?
NOT PARTICULARLY.
KE KE
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND YOU'VE FALLEN FOR THE TRA
HISS
FU FU

I AM KOEAE.
THAT MASTER IS TROUBLESOME SO I COULD NOT LEAVE THE SI[illegible] ALONE
AND YOU ARE THE HOLY PRINCESS, ARE YOU NOT?
I HAVE HEARD THAT IF ONE EATS YOUR ENTRAILS, HER LIFESPAN WILL BE LENGTHENED BY 200 YEARS.
EW.
WH-WHAT IS WITH THIS GIRL?
IT COULDN'T HURT...
TO TRY...

STAB
DO BE CAREFUL.
SFX whoosh

COUGH
trickle
!!

EVERY DAY I OFFER HOLY WATER AT THE ALTER OF THE GODS IT'S BEEN ABSORBED INTO MY BODY
WHAT DID YOU THINK A PRIESTESS WOULD TASTE LIKE?

I WONDER IF YOU CAN WITHSTAND IT

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME !?
cough cough
Ouch
DID I DO SOME-THING?

YOU...
tap
trembling
GAH
IS POI-
SONOUS TO
DEMONS.
YOU SEE,
MY BLOOD...
Kotoe-san~
You're three
hundred years
too early to
be eating me
GAAAAH

YOU'RE STILL ALIVE...
TCH...

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO DIE. WILL YOU BE ALRIGHT?
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BUT IT'S ONLY A MINOR INJURY.

WAH!!
flo
P
Wobble
ugh

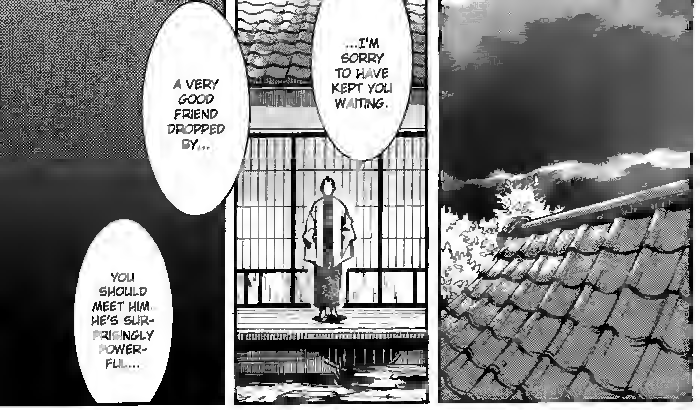
Ah...
HMPH... THIS IS NOTHING
Wait...

I haven't been this smooth since I was a baby!
HAHAHAHAHAHA
So how do I look?
HAVE YOU FINALLY DECIDED TO MEND YOUR WAYS AND BECOME A PROPER MONK?
Of course not!
munch munch
POSE
Please close the door...
THAT LONG...? AREN'T ALL BUDDIST MONKS SUPPOSED TO SHAVE THEIR HEADS?
AND I HEARD A RUMOR THAT THE DOG GOD'S BEEN COMING AROUND HERE.
OH REALLY?
sigh
YUP.
A DEMON HUNTING JOB?
slurp slurp
AND I GOTTA RUN ALL OVER THE PLACE FOR IT.
I GOT A JOB.
Bring me some of those bean cakes
flop

IS THAT SO, SHAMON?
WHERE DID YOU COME UP WITH THAT IDEA?
How despicable...
MEH...
AND NOW THAT I LOOK LIKE A MONK... I'LL BE ABLE TO COVER MY TRAVEL EXPENSES BY BEGGING FOR ALMS...
I KNOW YOU OFFERED, BUT I'M NO GOOD AT KISSING IMPORTANT PEOPLE'S ASSES
SORRY, PAL
SORRY, TADAJIROU I JUST COULDN'T HANDLE GOVERNMENT WORK.
AND WHAT SORT OF WORK EXACTLY DID YOU SAY YOU'D BE DOING?
I DIDN'T

I GOTTA SAY SOMETHING TO YOU, TADAJIROU.
PLEASE, BUDDY, FIND SOME OTHER LINE OF WORK EVEN IF IT DOESN'T PAY AS WELL.
PEOPLE WHO CAN'T SEE DEMONS HAVE NO BUSINESS DEALING WITH THEM.
AND YOU CAN'T LEAD OTHER PEOPLE THAT WAY, EITHER.
WITH A KNOWLEDGE OF DEMONS...
I COULD BORROW THEIR POWER.
COULD I NOT?
BUT...
TADAJIROU, YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

.....
DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID, TADAJIROU.
LISTEN TO PEOPLE WHEN THEY'RE TALKING!!!
Don't worry, it will grow back~♡
rub rub
Don't rub my head!
OF COURSE NOT.
YOU TOO, SHAMON.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T CRACK THE WALL OR KNOCK OFF ANY ROOFING TILES OR LEAVE ANY FOOTPRINTS ON THE PLASTER AGAIN
YES, I'D HATE TO HAVE TO REPORT HIM TO THE POLICE FOR TRESPASSING.
SORRY
TADASABUROU IF YOU CLEAN UP, I'LL SEND SHAMON ON HIS WAY.
AH?
ALRIGHT
HUH?
FINE, FINE, I'LL LEAVE.


A VERY GOOD FRIEND DROPPED BY...
YOU SHOULD MEET HIM. HE'S SURPRISINGLY POWERFUL....
...I'M SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING.

That's alright.
If you honor our agreement...
We will grant you all the power you need.

If you want to recruit him, he must be strong indeed.

...UNFORTUNATELY, I WAS NOT ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THAT...
TOO BAD.

I'LL UPHOLD MY END OF THE BARGAIN
YOU'LL BE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE GOVERNMENT
AND YOU'LL BE GIVEN THE STATUS THAT YOUR STRENGTH MERITS
Then the power is yours.
I swear to you...
Under your leadership, the Onmyou Bureau will gain the power to reach Heaven itself.

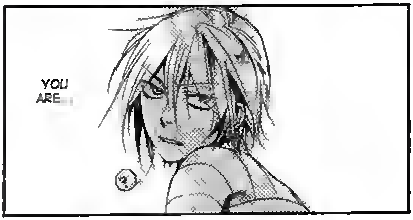
GR RR RR RR RR RR
.....
.....
GR RR RR RR RR RR
GO AWAY !!
GR RR RR RR RR RR
Pleeee eeee eease eat!
HMPH
It's a waste of good food!
I've sent everyone looking for food you might like! How ungrateful!
Argh!

I HEARD YOU.
BUT OTO-ROSHI-SAN, YOU'RE HURT.
I TOLD YOU, THERE'S NO REASON TO KEEP ME HOSTAGE HERE. I'M NOT WORTH ANY-THING TO ANYONE.
YOU'RE INSIDE A SPECIALLY MADE MAGIC BARRIER.
tap
DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE?
< SFX: glare >
!!!
AGAINST STRONG DE-MONS, IT WILL BE STRONG. AGAINST WEAK DEMONS, IT WILL BE WEAK.
IT CAUSES YOUR OWN STRENGTH TO REBOUND ONTO YOU.
Oh my, what a devilish look!

TO DO SO WOULD BE INSTANT DEATH FOR A STRONG DEMON, BUT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR A WEAK DEMON TO BREAK THROUGH.
AND SUCH A DEMON WOULD CERTAINLY BE KILLED OR CAPTURED.
WHEN WE FIRST MET, YOU PENETRATED THE OUTER LAYER OF THE BARRIER.

PART OF A PRIESTESS'S TRAINING INVOLVES STUDYING THE ABILITIES OF ALL VARIETIES OF DEMONS, AND HOW THEY CAN BE CONTROLLED

.....
SO HOW WOULD YOU CONTROL ME?



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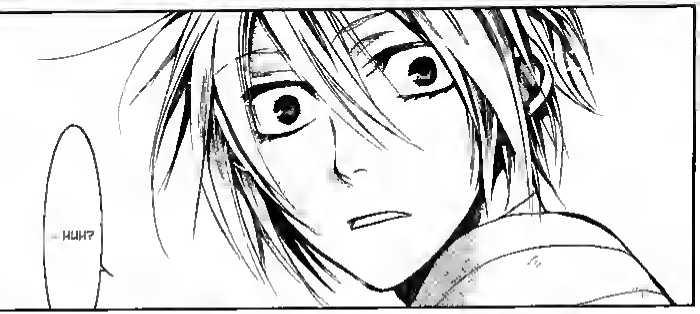
I WONDER WHAT IS SO DIFFERENT...
BETWEEN HUMANS AND DEMONS.


...HUH?

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND.
...Well tomorrow is another day.
Rest well

There's a huge rat in the storeroom, so make sure no one goes in there, alright?
A PRINCESS SHOULDN'T BE GOING INTO SOME FILTHY STOREROOM!
creak
Tsuruume?
YEAH, I'M HERE. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
twitch
Oh dear...
Did I upset you again?
OF COURSE NOT.
I'M JUST LAMENTING THE FACT THAT I'M STUCK WITH A MISTRESS WHO BLINDLY RUNS OFF TO CONFRONT DEMONS, THAT'S ALL
Can we play now?
hug
I... I'm sorry
SO DON'T DO IT AGAIN.
Big brother!

COULD SAY HOW WE SHOULD DEAL WITH THE DEMONS?
THEN WHO...
IF NOT THIS GIRL....

AND ME, WHOSE BODY IS FILLED WITH TAINTED BLOOD...
AN ILL-TEMPERED DEMON BOY
A TENDER, INNOCENT CHILD WHO WILL NEVER GROW UP...

I'm coming in...
oto-rashi-san?
..What?
WHICH ONE OF US IS THE TRUE MONSTER...?

Oh, do you need to roost in a tree?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
...What are you doing? If you move, you won't heal!
I JUST CAN'T SLEEP IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
I don't want him to catch a cold!
sulk

Of course I am!
I'LL KILL YOU
I couldn't just leave a poor little child, could I? >> <<

Well then there's no problem
It's just a matter of being in the right mindset

YOU'RE BEING NICE TO ME EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT USEFUL TO YOU AT ALL?

YES, that's right...
...I SUPPOSE THIS IS JUST ONE OF MY WHIMS.
YOU'RE FREE TO LEAVE AS SOON AS YOU'RE HEALED.
IF YOU'RE STILL FEELING WHIMSICAL, THEN HOW ABOUT TELLING ME WHO'S REALLY IN CHARGE OF THIS SHRINE?
rustle
...OKAY...
HEH
DON'T THINK I'LL BE PUT OFF BY SWEET TALK.
But you're welcome to visit often.
I can't tell you that

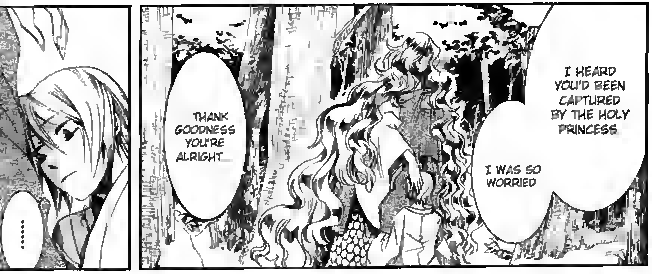
I WOULD HAVE TO KILL HIM WITHOUT HESITATION
THE SITUATION WAS CERTAINLY STRANGE, BUT I WAS FULLY AWARE
Well I do have a lot of practice...
DON'T EVEM TRY IT
THAT IF I SAW THIS BOY RAISE HIS HAND AGAINST A HUMAN,
Damn it I'm not sure you know
Hana-mi http://hana-mi.net
http://mistuki_manga.livejournal.com/
THAT WAS MY DUTY

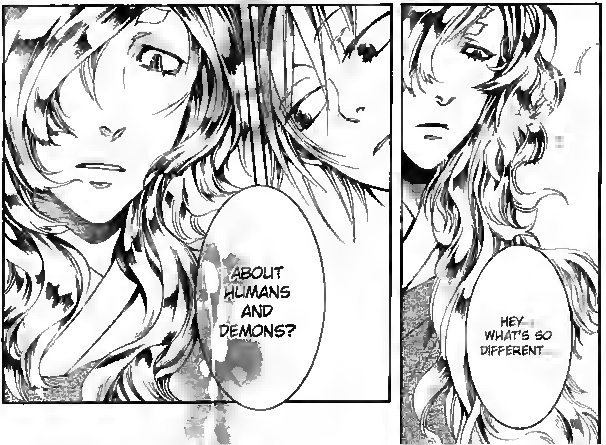
Are you leaving?
Oh?
Why are you still awake?
I thought maybe I'd come kill you in your sleep...
But I guess I can't now
That's a wise decision. The inner sanctuary has a barrier that's three times stronger. I wouldn't want you to be burnt to death
Good-bye, Otoro-shi-san
...Damn it...
?

Whoosh
MY NAME...
IS BYAKU-ROKU!!
rustle
rustle

Hm?
Did you really hate being called otoroshi-san so much?
HA HA HA HA
"Byaku-roku", run?
NOW THAT I THINK BACK ON IT, HIS TINY STREAK OF PRIDE
Slither
HIWA!?
HIWA!!
ARE YOU ALIVE...!?

DID YOU THINK I'D BEEN KILLED?
SORRY TO DIS-APPOINT YOU
HIWA!
slither
.....
I'M FINE OKAY?
slither


I HEARD YOU'D BEEN CAPTURED BY THE HOLY PRINCESS
I WAS SO WORRIED
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALRIGHT...
.....


HEY WHAT'S SO DIFFERENT...
ABOUT HUMANS AND DEMONS?

SHE DIDN'T DO ANY-THING TO ME
NEVER MIND.
...HIWA?
...WHAT...?
HIWA, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT HURT?
I MUST MEET HER.
THE HOLY PRIN-CESS...?
WAS THERE BE-GIN-NING OF OUR TRAG-EDY
THEIR MEETING CAUSES NEW FEELINGS...
.....
CONTINUED IN ZERO SUM ISSUE #1, ON SALE 11/98

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Chapter 28: Butterfly's Dream: Part 4

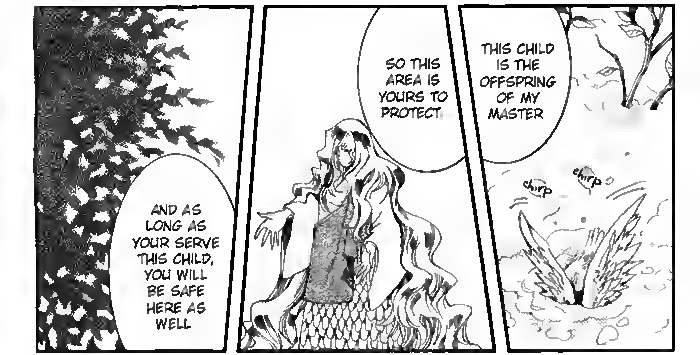
...Huh?
What is that thing?
Keep it away from me. It's creepy.

..DID I DROP HIM?
IT'S YOUR FAULT!!
chirp
plop
chirp
chirp
chirp
YES.
.....?
IS THIS A TREE SPIRIT?

HE'S A CUTTING OF MY MASTER'S TREE
LIKE A TWIG
HE HASN'T TAKEN ROOT YET, SO HE'S STILL A BABY
chirp
chirp
...So it's from that old guy...?
DO YOU THINK HE'S COLD?
PICK IT UP YOUR-SELF!!
.....
flail
chirp
flail

HE'LL SURELY GROW TO BE A GREAT TREE SPIRIT.
flutter
flutter
Hmph. It doesn't look like much
chirp chirp
THAT CHILD IS NO ORDINARY TREE SPIRIT.
HE WAS TAKEN FROM THE BRANCH OF A TREE THAT LIVED FOR OVER A THOUSAND YEARS
chirp
HIWA...
PLEASE TAKE THIS CHILD AS YOUR MASTER.
YOU...
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!!
shove
chirp
IT'S TIME YOU HAD A MASTER OF YOUR OWN.
WHAT?

PLEASE, LISTEN TO ME,
HIWA
WE SPIRIT BEASTS MUST BOND OURSELVES TO THE SERVICE OF TREE SPIRITS THAT IS THE WAY THINGS ARE.
THE GROWTH OF THE TREE IS OF SUPREME IMPORTANCE.
AND UNTIL THAT TREE IS FULLY GROWN, WE MUST ENSURE ITS SAFETY

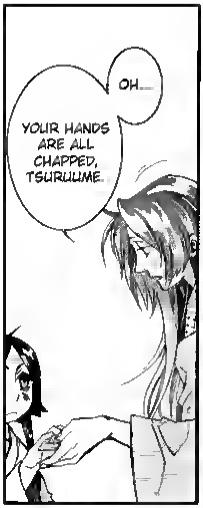

THIS CHILD IS THE OFFSPRING OF MY MASTER
chirp
chirp
SO THIS AREA IS YOURS TO PROTECT.
AND AS LONG AS YOUR SERVE THIS CHILD, YOU WILL BE SAFE HERE AS WELL

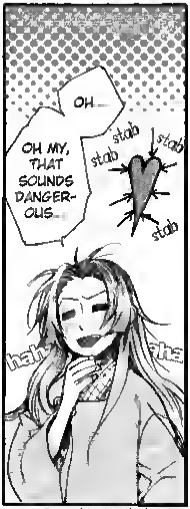
I DON'T WANT YOU TO WORSHIP HIM AS YOUR MASTER
I WOULD RATHER SEE THE TWO OF YOU BE AS CLOSE AS BROTHERS
...THE SNOW IS DEEP.
I SHOULD BE HIBERNATING
HIWA, YOU CANNOT FLY, CORRECT?
BUT IF I SLEEP, MY ENEMIES WILL GROW STRONGER
I KNOW HOW PROUD YOU ARE, BUT IN REALITY, YOU ARE STILL WEAK
I CAN'T RELY ON YOU TO PROTECT HIM ON YOUR OWN

slither
YOU ARE SO SMALL, AND I DID NOT TEACH YOU TO BE RUTHLESS...
slither
I WORRY ABOUT YOU
slither
slither
HIWA
YOU REJECT THE PROTECTION OF THE NAME I GAVE YOU.
AND THAT IS THE POWER I CAN OFFER YOU.
PLEASE BE SAFE, MY WAYWARD CHILD.

I hate hearing pretty words from a sellout
Hmph
I hate the way you think a name will protect me
plop
I hate taking care of a useless pet
slither slither slither
I hate it all.
No matter what you say, it won't make a difference

THE BARRIER'S BEEN CRACKLING ALL THE TIME LATELY!
OH? WHAT IS IT?
OH PLEASE
Hehe-
Maybe there's a demon outside?
AND THERE USUALLY AREN'T MANY DEMONS OUT IN THE WINTER ANYWAY!
stir stir
BUT WHENEVER SOMEBODY GOES TO LOOK, THERE'S NOTHING THERE!!
AND IT'S WEIRD FOR SOMEBODY TO COME HERE FOR NO REASON!
WHATEVER IT IS, I WANT TO BEAT IT UP

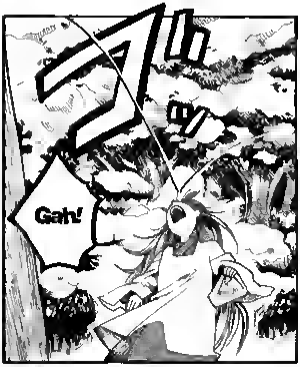




< Original text in the heart.
Knowledge deep in the heart >

BUT WHY WOULD THE DAUGHTER OF SUCH A RESPECTABLE FAMILY WORK FOR ME...?
IT'S ALRIGHT, YOU DON'T NEED TO SERVE ME.
I can make the tea this time

N... NO, IT'S FINE!!
I REALLY LIKE WORKING HERE!!
PLEASE, LET ME LOOK AFTER YOU!!
AH?
UM
ALRIGHT
IF TSURUUME-SAMA NEEDS A REST, I'LL HELP!!
NO, LET ME!
KYAA
Hey, who said anything about resting?
Hey get out of here!!
I ain't resting
WAI
WAI
I FEEL TRAPPED...
ha ha ha ha
KYAA


Gah!

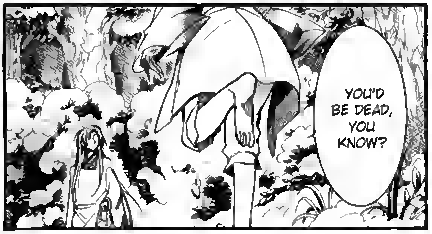
< Sfx: splat >

He
he
he
he
That hurt!!
throb
throb
throb
I guess your barrier doesn't work against snowballs!

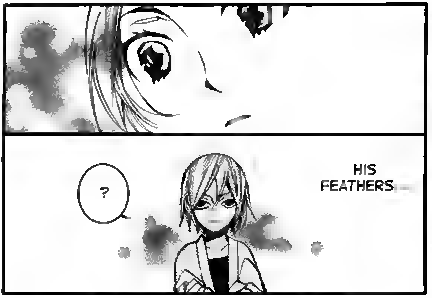
crunch
crunch
crunch
crunch
whoosh

HMPH
YOU SHOULDN'T BE SO CARELESS THIS CLOSE TO THE EDGE OF YOUR BARRIER

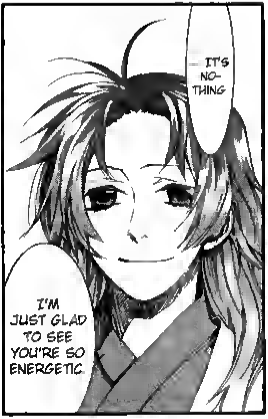
I should have known it was you!
What are you doing here?!


YOU'D BE DEAD, YOU KNOW?

IF IT WAS ANY OTHER DEMON


?
HIS FEATHERS

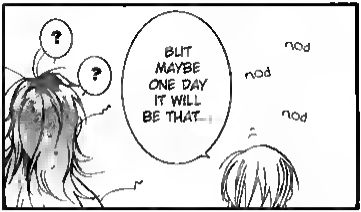
AH?
DID I SAY SOMETHING TO UPSET YOU?

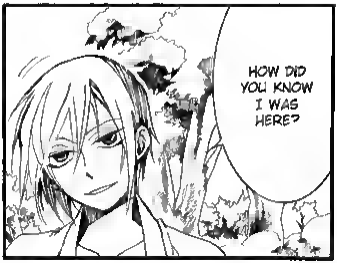

IT'S NOTHING
I'M JUST GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE SO ENERGETIC

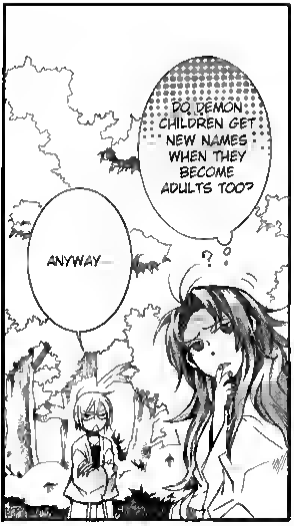
?
NO, JUST DON'T CALL ME THAT.
shake
shake

BUT COULD YOU PLEASE NOT HIT ME ANYMORE?
HMM, BYAKU-ROKU-SAN?

arrrgghh
DON'T CALL YOU THAT...? YOU MEAN YOU HAVE ANOTHER NAME?

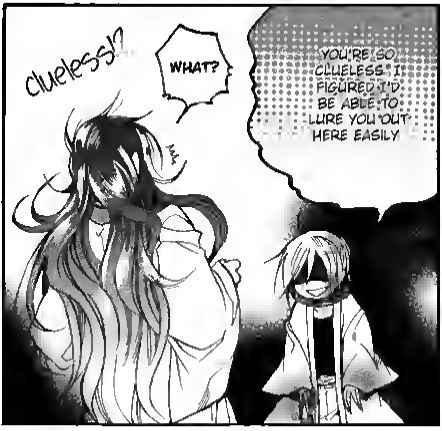

?
?
BUT MAYBE ONE DAY IT WILL BE THAT...
nod
nod
nod

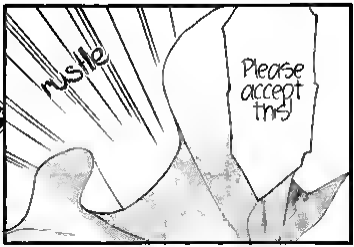

HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS HERE?


DO DEMON CHILDREN GET NEW NAMES WHEN THEY BECOME ADULTS TOO?
ANYWAY...
?!

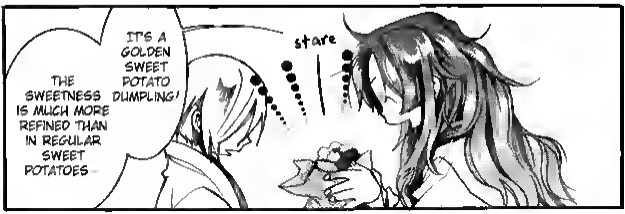
HUH?

HMPH
I WAS JUST WORKING ON MY COUNTER-ATTACK


clueless?
WHAT?
YOU'RE SO CLUELESS I FIGURED I'D BE ABLE TO LURE YOU OUT HERE EASILY

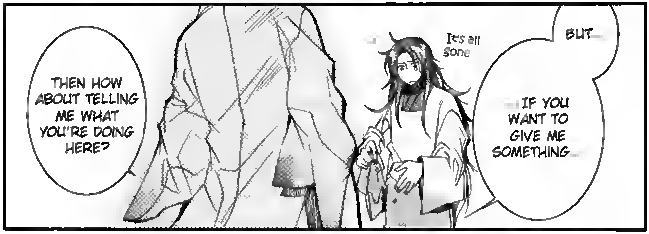


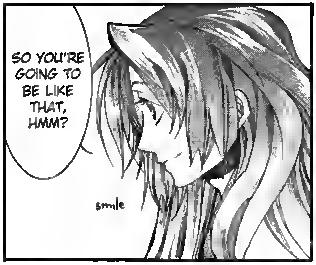
< Sfx: tadaa, warmth >

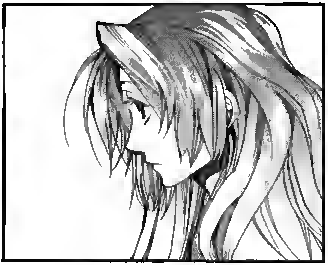


DID YOU GET EVEN DUMBER? IS THERE EVEN A BRAIN IN YOUR HEAD?
I've tried everything...!!
BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO TRAIN CHILDREN WITH FOOD...!!!

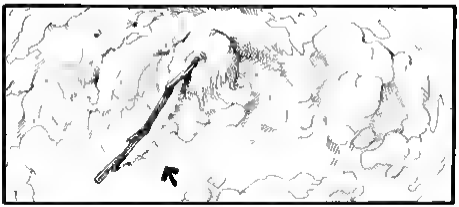
FLYING SWEET POTATOES!

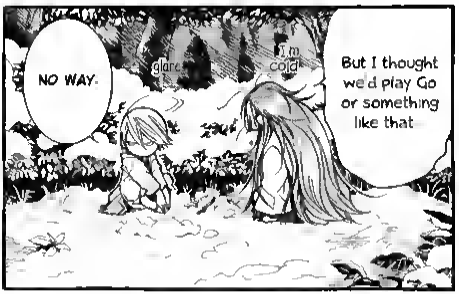

THEN HOW ABOUT TELLING ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE?
It's all gone
BUT...
IF YOU WANT TO GIVE ME SOMETHING...


SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIKE THAT, HMM?
smile

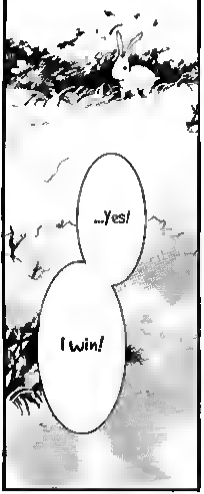


GENERALLY, WHEN YOU LOSE, YOU HAVE TO SHOW YOUR CARDS
THAT MEANS YOU'VE GOT TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS
VERY WELL...
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME AT THIS GAME?
...YOU'RE ON
MY MONOTONOUS DAYS SUDDENLY BECAME MORE FUN





AND SO WE WERE BOUND BY OUR STRANGE SHARED DESTINY.



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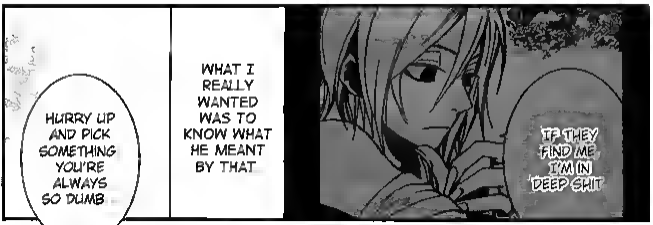
HE MUST HAVE COME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO SEE ME AGAIN...
OKAY, SO THERE'S A SHOUGUN AND AN EMPEROR, RIGHT?
I DON'T GET IT WHICH ONE IS STRONGER?
WELL, IT'S REALLY YOU DEMONS THAT ARE A PROBLEM.
YOU'RE PROBABLY MUCH STRONGER THAN LITTLE WARLORDS
YEAH, I GUESS.
BUT THERE WAS ALWAYS A LINE HE COULD NOT CROSS
BECAUSE IT WAS MY JOB TO MAINTAIN THAT LINE
WELL, WHATEVER. LOOK
Pat Pat
YOU CAN TRY AGAIN
AND THE LINE COULD NOT BE TOUCHED NOR INTERFERED WITH IN ANY WAY
OR THE DELICATE BALANCE COULD BE BROKEN

HE COMES EVERY DAY NOW...
HUH?
CHOKE
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THE BARRIER IS CRACKLING AGAIN, PRINCESS!
DURING THAT WINTER, HE VISITED CONSTANTLY.
SHOCK
SISA
GLARE
AH!
YOU'LL CATCH COLD, SO YOU HAVE TO STAY INSIDE!
Are you going out? Can I come too?
WHINE
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
WERE YOU WAITING FOR ME...?
I knew it.
GLARE
Isn't he cold...?
POO
!!

THE CLOSER SPRING CAME, THE MORE DISTANT IT SEEMED
I SUPPOSE I HAVE SOME FREE TIME
IF THEY FIND ME, I'M IN DEEP SHIT
tap
tap
THE SNOW'S MELTING, SO THERE WILL BE A LOT OF ANNOYING GUYS
scratch
scratch
Damn it! I'm no good at shougi!
FINE, YOU WIN TODAY
ASK ME ANYTHING
sigh
CHECK-MATE.

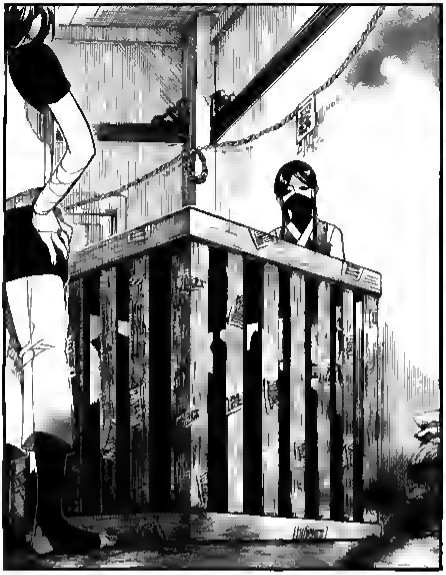
HMM...
WHAT SHOULD I ASK...
SOMETIMES I THINK BACK ON THOSE TIMES...
HE HASN'T ASKED ANYTHING ABOUT THE TRUE MASTER OF THIS SHRINE...
Damn it
Hmm——
AND I HAVEN'T ASKED HIM ABOUT HIS MASTER, EITHER
NEITHER OF US WANTED TO BREAK THE BOND BETWEEN US
THE AIR IS MUCH BETTER OUT HERE THAN IN THE SHRINE...


IF THEY FIND ME I'M IN DEEP SHIT
WHAT I REALLY WANTED WAS TO KNOW WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT
HURRY UP AND PICK SOMETHING YOU'RE ALWAYS SO DUMB

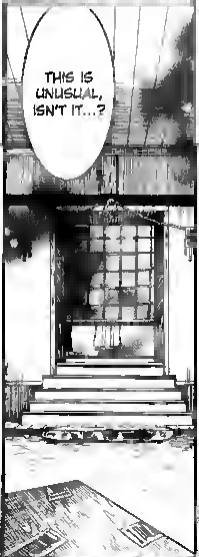
SUCH A SIMPLE REQUEST...
WELL SORRY
hmph
COME ON, JUST ASK
AT LEAST WE'LL BE EVEN
IF WE JUST KEEP PLAYING LIKE THIS...

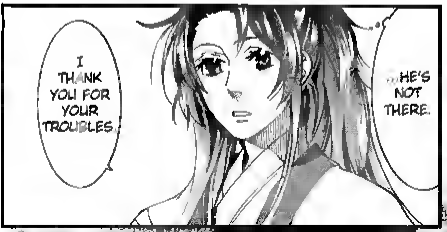
laugh
IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME!
HUH?
YOUR HAIR HAS GROWN SHAGGY, HASN'T IT, BYAKUROKU-SAN...?
What kind of question is that?
GO FIT YOUR OWN FACE!
I MEAN, IT'S JUST SOMETHING THAT'S HAPPENED OVER TIME. I LIKE IT.
BUT I'D LIKE IF YOU WOULD GROW IT LONG
HE DIDN'T COME BACK FOR A WHILE
DID I MISS HIM?
I don't know
I WONDERED WHAT HE WAS DOING...
WE'VE BEEN TESTING EACH OTHER WITH THESE ESCALATING QUESTIONS
THE DEMONS MUST HAVE GREAT WISDOM AS WELL...

THE ENVOYS FROM THE ONMYOU BUREAU HAVE ARRIVED
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PRESENT WHEN THEY DELIVER THE DEMONS?
I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED A DEMON TO HAVE A MORE IMPRESSIVE PRESENCE, THOUGH
hmmm
PRIN-CESS!
VERY WELL
I'M COMING
OH, YES I UNDERSTAND THE ONMYOU BUREAU HAS SENT MANY STRANGE PEOPLE SO YOU MUST BE WORRIED IT'S TRUE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN MORE AND MORE SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING PEOPLE AROUND.
If only she knew
gah!
BUT IT SEEMS THAT YOU'VE BEEN SENSING A LOT OF DEMONS RECENTLY, TOO. I WONDER WHY?
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S KIND OF SUSPI-CIOUS?



THE FREQUENCY OF THESE DELIVERIES HAS INCREASED AS WELL.

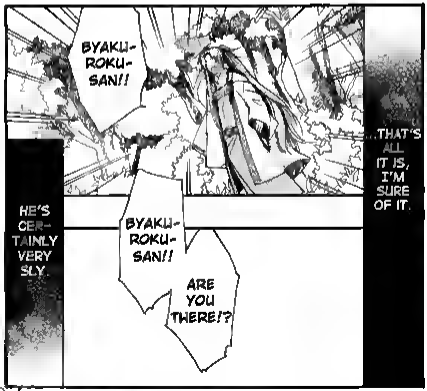

THIS IS UNUSUAL, ISN'T IT...?


I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TROUBLES.
...HE'S NOT THERE.

OH, YOU'RE VERY WELCOME
THANK YOU FOR TAKING THESE OFF OUR HANDS.
BENI-CHAN IS SO STRONG~ ♡
lift
Keh...
Bya... Byaku...
Roku...
Ge he he...
Byaku-roku...
-sama...

The curse of Heaven's Seat...
Will be on you...
H... HEAVEN'S SEAT?
Yeah.

OH. HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?
THAT'S THE NAME THEY GIVE TO THE STRONGEST DEMON, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
AND THE HEAVEN'S SEAT IS GIVEN AN HONORARY TITLE.
THEY CALL HIM "BYAKUROKU."



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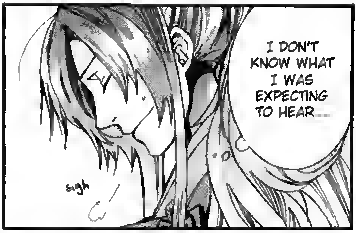
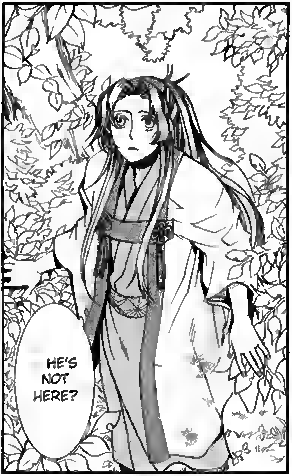

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS EXPECTING TO HEAR...
sigh

WHY ARE YOU CALLING THAT NAME?


HE'S NOT HERE?

ARE YOU THE HOLY PRINCESS?

Hana-mi
http://hana-mi.net
presents
Takaya and Shinobu's
Amatsuki
Vol. 5
Ch. 28
Translator: Anonymous
Yoniyo
Editors:
Do not read this page from this release
http://amatsuki_manga.livejournal.com

Translator's Note:

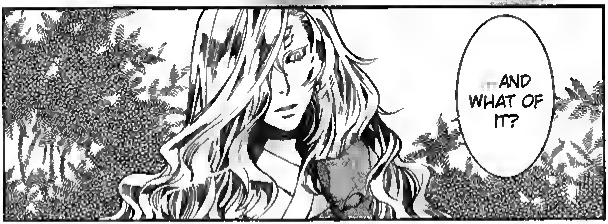
PAGE 112:

Japanese people used to have a lot of names. A boy would get a child hood name ("youmyou") for use by his family when he was born, and he'd get two new names ("zokumyou" and "nanori") when he came of age. The zokumyou was an adult name for use with family and friends, and it often had a numerical kanji in it to reflect the man's birth order. The nanori was a more formal name.

To further complicate things, many men recieved honorary names from their lords, some used alternate pronnnciations, and some chose to invent their own names (similar to Chinese style names).

ARE YOU THE HOLY PRINCESS?
Amatsuki Volumes 1-4 now on sale at your favorite bookshop!
あまつき
Chapter 29 - Butterfly's Dream, Part 5
高山しのぶ

FOR A MOMENT, OUR GLANCES MET...



HE LOOKED AT ME... WITH SUCH HUNGRY, SEARCHING EYES

A LITTLE BIRD ASKED ME...
I WONDER ?
...Why are you glaring at me?
laugh
"WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND DEMONS ?"
IT COULDN'T BE... BYAKUYOKU -SAN...!?
A LITTLE BIRD...?
BUT THAT MEANS THIS PERSON IS !
HAS A LITTLE HUMAN CHILD...
EVER ASKED YOU THAT QUESTION?

-Yes.
-But if a human child asked me now-
We humans intruded upon this forest and built a shrine here.
-So I would ask the child this.
Do you think we humans have overstepped our territory?
AND WHAT...
WOULD BE YOUR ANSWER?
NO, BECAUSE YOU HAVE NOT STEPPED OUTSIDE YOUR TERRITORY
YOU HUMANS HAVE COWERED INSIDE YOUR SAFE LITTLE BARRIER
IF YOU WERE EVER TO LEAVE IT, YOU COULD NOT GO BACK

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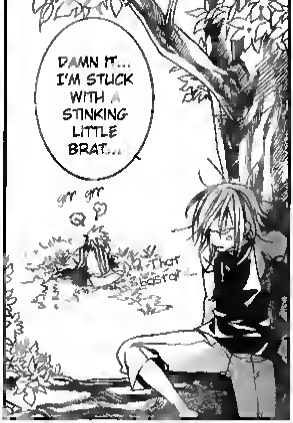
It's been bothering me!
Your hair is so shaggy!
fufufu
twitch
...YEAH
...
!
.....
SILENCE
YEAH, JUST LOOKING AT IT BOTHERS ME.
JUMP
SLASH
AH!
GRAB

HEH.
THAT'S BETTER.
shock
Tuther
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH THIS GUY!?
HAS HE GOT A HUMAN BODY AND MONSTER TEETH!?
ARE YOU RETARDED OR SOMETHING!?
SHUT UP!
SNAP
HUH?
I'M SMARTER THAN YOU!
PU
CH

surprise
ARE YOU RETARDED OR SOMETHING?!!
YOU BIG STUPID BULLY!
STUPID !!
YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO TAKE CARE OF THIS THING?
I'D LIKE FOR THE TWO OF YOU TO LIVE AS BROTHERS
GRAB
CRA
DIDN'T ANYBODY TEACH YOU ANY DISCIPLINE, YOU FURBALL!?
STUPID! STUUUU-PID!!
SHOVE
SH
whOOsh
THEY RE ON THE SAME LEVEL
POUCH
Don't copy me, you brat!
SMAP

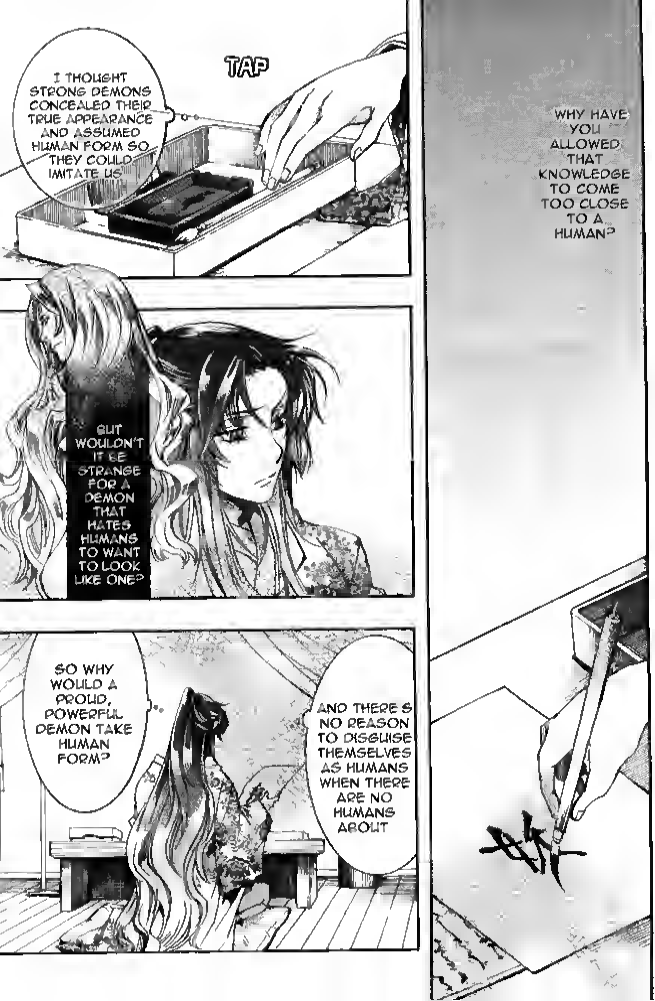
...I WISH WINTER WOULD COME SOONER...


DAMN IT... I'M STUCK WITH A STINKING LITTLE BRAT...
grr grr
That bastard!

GNAW
GNAW
GNAW

Rustle

...IS IT ALREADY SUMMER ..?


I THOUGHT STRONG DEMONS CONCEALED THEIR TRUE APPEARANCE AND ASSUMED HUMAN FORM SO THEY COULD IMITATE US
TAP
BUT WOULDN'T IT BE STRANGE FOR A DEMON THAT HATES HUMANS TO WANT TO LOOK LIKE ONE?
SO WHY WOULD A PROUD, POWERFUL DEMON TAKE HUMAN FORM?
AND THERE'S NO REASON TO DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS HUMANS WHEN THERE ARE NO HUMANS ABOUT
WHY HAVE YOU ALLOWED THAT KNOWLEDGE TO COME TOO CLOSE TO A HUMAN?

contradic-tion?
surprise
MY TEACHER ONCE TOLD ME THAT THE WORLD IS FULL OF CONTRADIC-TIONS.
AND A HUMAN FORM IS EASIER TO MAINTAIN. BUT WHY?
MAYBE THEIR BODIES WEAKEN WITH AGE.
A contradic-tion.
WHY WOULD THEY GROW WEAK?

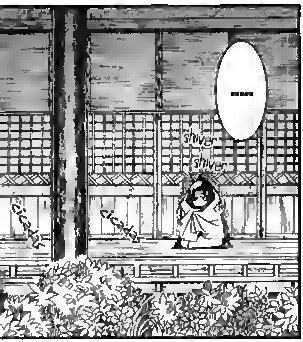
DEMONS GROW TOO WEAK TO MAINTAIN THEIR TRUE FORMS.
IT'S LIKE A DISEASE THAT THEY ALL CARRY.
Is it a contradiction- -that demons turn into humans?
or are they turning back into humans?

WAH!
kyaaa
WHAT !!?
Oh, I thought I'd sleep in here with all of you tonight!
... HUH? PRINCESS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
Please sleep next to me~ <3
KYAAAAAAA
Yes you must, you must!
I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO SLEEP HERE!
PLEASE DON'T SAY SOMETHING SO RIDICULOUS!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
Oh, It will be alright, won't it? <3
THE BARRIER ISN'T AS STRONG AND THE SPIRITUAL AURA ISN'T AS PURE HERE! WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENED!?
Oh, Tsuru-sama~ <3
<SFX: menace>
EEEEEEEP!
THIS ISN'T RIGHT!
WILL YOU PLEASE SETTLE DOWN?
Y.. yes forgive me

ZZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
Argh... Anyway...
I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S CAUSING THE DEMONS' WEAKNESS, BUT I HAVE A THEORY.
I HAVE TO WAIT FOR A MOONLESS NIGHT.

I'LL TELL YOU...
WHY SO MANY OF MY LITTLE DEMONS ARE DRAWN TO THIS PLACE.
THEY KNOW THEY'LL BE CAPTURED IF THEY VENTURE INSIDE THE SHRINE
ALL BUT THE WEAKEST DEMONS STAY WELL AWAY.
WOULD DEMONS COME HERE?
Byaku roku...
SO WHY
UNLESS THEY ARE ACTUALLY RETURNING TO THIS PLACE?
but that's ridiculous. why would he say that?

WHOOSH
SHOCK
Wah!

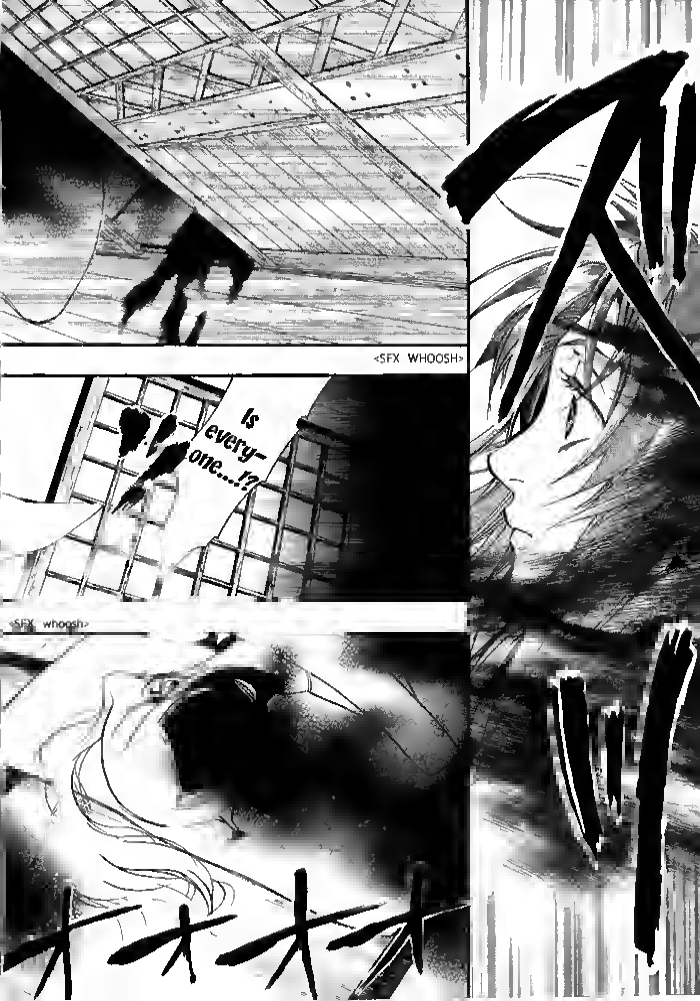

.....
shiver
shiver
CRACK
CRACK

.....
Oh
MAYBE IT WAS THE WIND

THOSE WEAK DEMONS ARE VIOLENT, CRUDE,
UGLY, AND LACKING INTELLIGENCE...

SO AGGRESSIVE THAT IT'S BETTER THEY DON'T EXIST...
Is that-

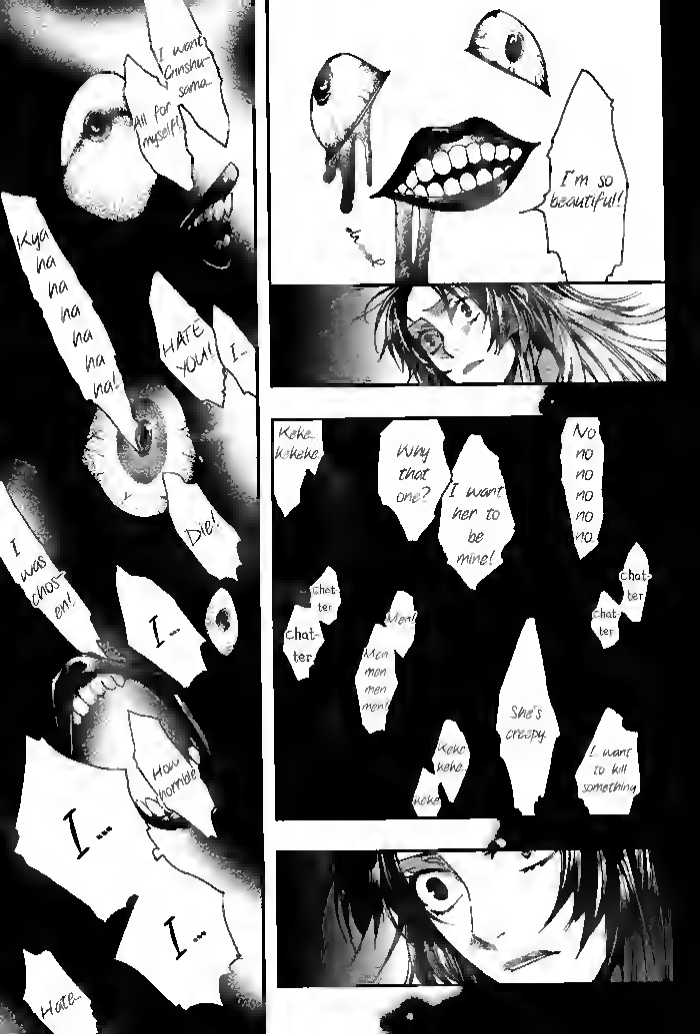
SUCH A DISGUSTING, DREADFUL SPECIES...
Really true-?


<SFX WHOOSH>
Is everyone...!?
<SFX whoosh>

<SFX: slam>

<SFX: whoosh>

<SFX: whoooosh>
!!
...What is that thing?
snap
...?
Is it trying to speak?
Hiss
Hiss


I want Emishu-sama all for myself!
Kya ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!
HATE YOU!
I...
Die!
I...
I was ghosten!
I...
How horrible
I...
I...
Hate...
I'm so beautiful!
Keke keke
Why that one?
I want her to be mine!
No no no no no
Chatter
Chatter
Chatter
Chatter
Mon mon mon mon!
Mon!
She's creepy
Keke keke keke
I want to kill something

BUT AREN'T THESE...
<SFX: slam>
IT'S SAID THAT DEMONS ARE BORN FROM THIS BLACK FOG.
THE EMOTIONS OF HUMANS?
-It can't be.
IS THIS THE AYAKASHI'S TRUE FORM?

We humans see the demons as creatures entirely unlike ourselves.. We loudly proclaim our superiority, and look upon them with scorn and disgust and hatred...
THIS CAN'T BE
NO
I'M AFRAID
If we knew what that miasma really was, we would sneer in disbelief..
WHY
WHY
WHY AM I
I find it horrifying as well... but we humans ... cannot deny the truth...
WHY AM I SO AFRAID?

SHE'S FRIGHTENING...
I'M SCARED...
THERE'S SOMETHING TERRIFYING ABOUT HER...
WHAT IS SHE...
I can't get away
IT'S SO DEPRESSING HERE...
THIS PLACE...
WHAT IS...
WHY AM I SO SCARED...
THOSE KIND, SMILING GIRLS...
She is creepy
THIS MIASMA OF NEGATIVITY COMES OUT EVERY NIGHT, BUT IT'S ALL FORGOTTEN BY THE NEXT DAY...
I want to run away
AND ME, WHO CAN EMBRACE HER SO FONDLY...

What is she, really? I must know...
...Am I the only one who thinks this way?

IF HIS WINGS DISAPPEAR BY THE NEXT TIME I SEE HIM, I'LL BE RELIEVED.
...
silence
. TCH.
BUT LOVE AMONG HUMANS IS IMPOSSIBLE
...
HOW CAN ANY HUMAN BE SO TRUSTING?
WE LOOK DEEP INTO OUR HEARTS AND SEE THE CRUELTY AND HATRED WITHIN LAID BARE...

I'M SURE SHE'S REALLY BUSY, BUT...
SHE DOESN'T EVEN BRING SWEETS FOR SHINSHU ANYMORE...
TSURUUME-SAMA, IS GINSHU-SAMA STILL...?
YEAH, SHE'S STILL LOCKED IN HER ROOM, STUDYING.
AND IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS FOR ALMOST A YEAR... I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?
WELL... SHINSHU-SAMA CAN JUST GO FIND ANOTHER PLAYMATE, RIGHT? IT DOESN'T ALWAYS HAVE TO BE THE PRINCESS.
SHIN-SHU!?
.....
WHO IS SHE PLAYING WITH NOW?

Haya-mi http://haya-mi.net
http://amatsuki.livejournal.com/

I HAVE EATEN FROM A FORBIDDEN FRUIT...
Hona..
Humans can't see demons because they don't want to see
They want to deny their existence, and so there are exorcists
Isn't that what has always been said?

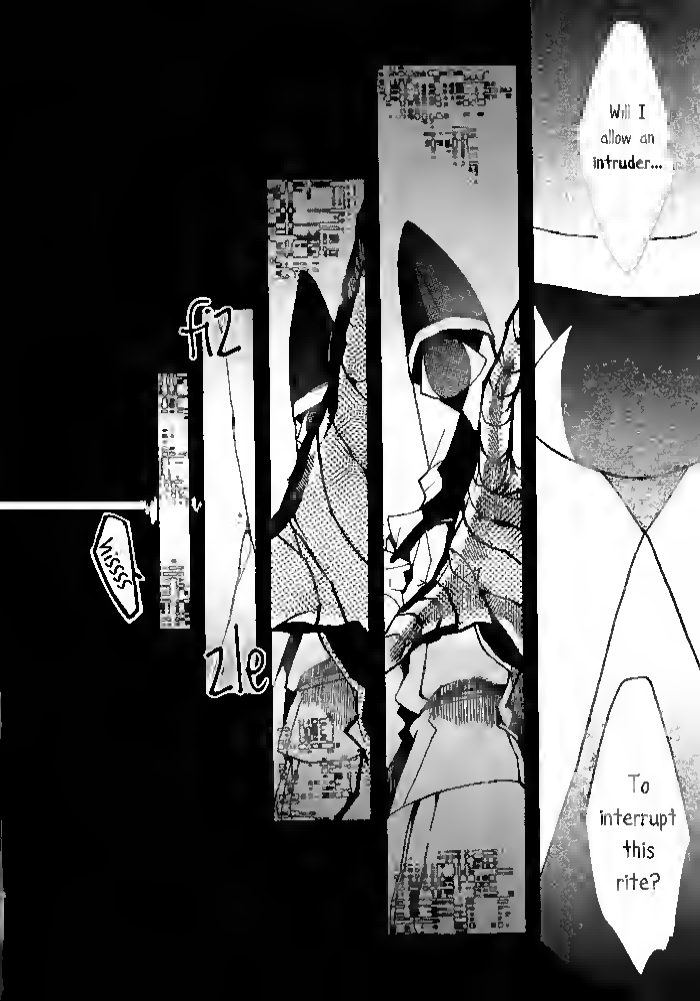
If there is a god.
How could he give his blessing to such a cruel trick..!?

HUH?
YOU LOOK AWFULLY CHEERFUL, BYAKUROKU
PERHAPS SOMETHING HAS APPE, RED TO SWEETEN MY OUTLOOK.
FUFU.
AND ONCE ONE HAS TASTED FORBIDDEN FRUIT, ONE CANNOT GO BACK...

HE JUST DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HIMSELF. LEAVE HIM ALONE.
YEAH, I KNOW.
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?
YEAH, WHATEVER.
AND THEN HE'S THE TOTAL OPPOSITE, ALL MOPEY AND WEIRD
OH LOOK, SHE'S COME TO KEEP YOU COMPANY
A WAYWARD CHILD... NOW WHO DOES THAT REMIND YOU OF?
"HUMANS ARE "YANG," AND DEMONS ARE "YIN." IF ONE EXCEEDS THE OTHER, THE BALANCE WILL BE LOST.
WHAT DOES SHE WANT?
Gah!
SHE'S HERE AGAIN!?
Let's play!

I KNOW THINGS THAT HUMANS DO NOT, AND HUMANS KNOW THINGS THAT I DO NOT
IF WE WERE TO JOIN FORCES, WE'D SEE THE TRUTH OF THIS WORLD.
I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE FRUIT OF KNOWLEDGE.
WOULDN'T WE ALL LIKE TO TASTE THAT FRUIT?
PRINCESS ARE YOU FREE?
IT'S SHINSHU - SHE'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU...
AND IT IS AS DELICIOUS TO ME AS A POMEGRANATE IS TO A SNAKE.

<SFX: slap>
...Is this a dream, or is this reality?
Is this a lie, or is this truth?
Or is this nothing more than a butterfly's dream...


Will I allow an intruder...
To interrupt this rite?
fiz
zle
ssss

GAME OVER
Continue?
Game over!!
click
blip
... SHIT!
Please insert coin
DAMN IT...
JUST A LITTLE BIT FURTHER ...
poke
ding
Game over!! Please insert coin

CONTINUE//
コンティニュー

Hana-mi
http://hana-mi.net
presents
Takaya and Shinobu's
Amatsuki
Vol. 5
Ch. 29
Anonymous
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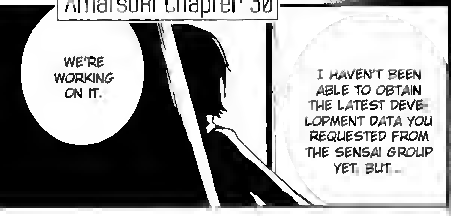
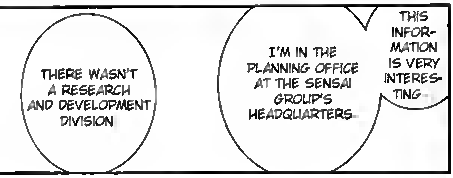
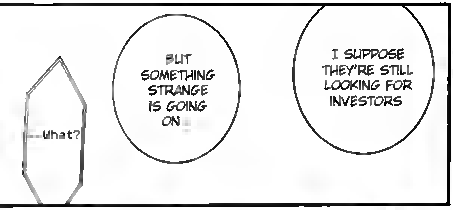
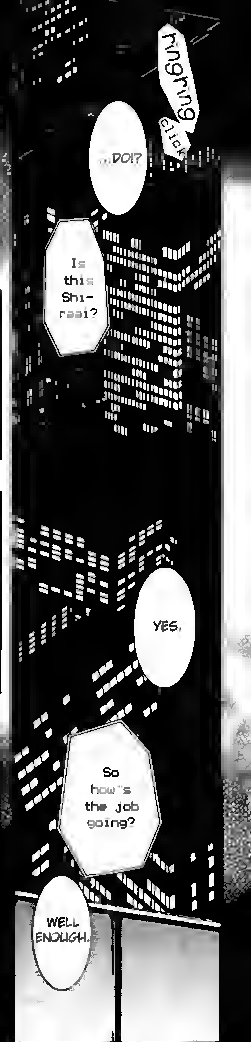

WE'RE WORKING ON IT.
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT DATA YOU REQUESTED FROM THE SENSAI GROUP YET, BUT...

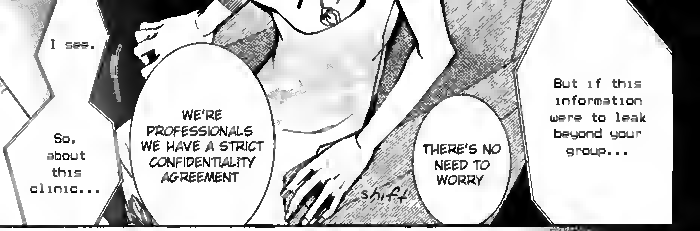

THERE WASN'T A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
I'M IN THE PLANNING OFFICE AT THE SENSAI GROUP'S HEADQUARTERS...
THIS INFORMATION IS VERY INTERESTING...

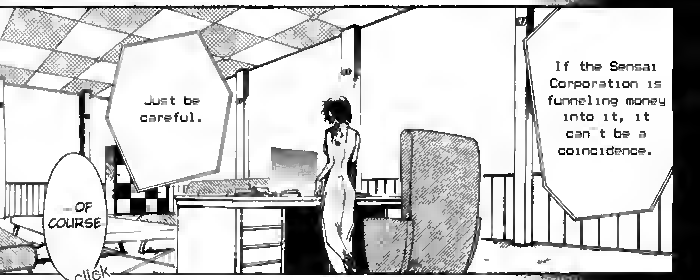

...what?
BUT SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON...
I SUPPOSE THEY'RE STILL LOOKING FOR INVESTORS

THAT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE SOMETHING IN SENSAI'S FIELD
A HOSPITAL?
They're giving a lot of money to a clinic.


ringring click
...DOI?
Is this Shiraai?
YES.
So how's the job going?
WELL ENOUGH.

CLICK CLICK
thunk
!
Shirasu...
I'm sorry to ask this of you, but could you find out everything you can about this clinic and how they relate to Sensai?
I'll pay you at the special rate.
OF COURSE
It's alright.
BUT THE INVESTIGATION COULD BE VERY INVOLVED - ARE YOU SURE THAT'S NOT TOO EXPENSIVE?
...MAYBE SENSAI IS BEING PHILANTHROPIC?
Possibly, but they've been recieving money from the Sensai Corporation from the very beginning. It doesn't make any sense.
And the amount of money is way too high.
SO WHAT'S THE NAME OF THIS CLINIC?
It's called the "Shinbashi Clinic." I've just sent you the details.
YES, WELL, THAT'S WHY I WANTED YOUR OPINION
I'M ONLY HERE TO GET THE INFORMATION WE NEED
BUT IF THE COMPANY IS USING THE CLINIC TO HIDE THEIR FUNDS FOR TAX EVASION THEN MAYBE IT'S NOT SO UNRELATED AFTER ALL
.....


But if this information were to leak beyond your group...
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY
WE'RE PROFESSIONALS WE HAVE A STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT
So, about this clinic...
I see.
shift


If the Sensai Corporation is funneling money into it, it can't be a coincidence.
Just be careful.
OF COURSE
click

WELL, IT SEEMS...
THAT I'VE CAUSED TROUBLE FOR HASHITA FROM THE START.

Takayama Shinobu

Chapter 30: Still Water Attracts Floating Weeds

< Sign: Internal Medicine 12, Examination Room No. 189 >

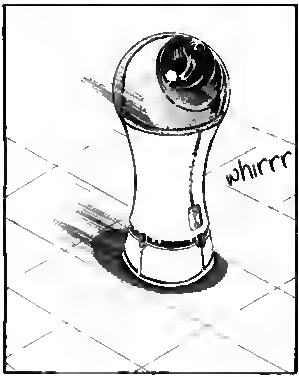
IF YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE EXAMINATION PROCEDURE, I'D BE HAPPY TO INFORM YOU
Hmm
Hmm
NOW, YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BE TESTED FOR GENETIC ILLNESSES, CORRECT?
BUT... I ONLY CAME HERE BECAUSE I HAD A STOMACHACHE... I DON'T SEE WHAT ALL THE DNA STUFF IS FOR
WOW
THAT'S GREAT.
Hmm
Hmm
ANY QUES-TIONS?
THE WHOLE TEST ONLY TAKES ABOUT TWO HOURS
SINCE I'M JUST FAKING IT...
nod
WOULD YOU RATHER NOT KNOW IF IT'S JUST A NORMAL STOMACHACHE OR SOMETHING ELSE?
I BELIEVE THAT WHEN MEDICAL HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAM-INATION AREN'T ENOUGH TO ELU-CIDATE THE CAUSE OF A DISEASE, THEN MORE THOROUGH INVESTIGATIONS SHOULD BE PERFORMED.
Uhh, whatever
IT IS MY DUTY!
AND THAT WILL PROVE THAT I'M HEALTHY, RIGHT?
IT'S UP TO YOU, TANAKA-SAN!
sigh
WELL, IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL—

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.
Wh...what!? Is it lung cancer!?
IT'S A JOK W
shock
huff
stab
HOW I WISH THE RIGHT
IT'S PROBABLY YOUR LUNGS THAT ARE BAD, ANYWAY.
jump
flutter
FOR I HAVE INVENTED A BREAKTHROUGH PRODUCT THAT ALLOWS YOU TO SMOKE WITHOUT SACRIFICING YOUR HEALTH!
glint + glint
FU FU FU
BUT NEVER FEAR!
tremble tremble
A YEAR FROM NOW, THE PROFITS WILL JUMP BY 15000%
IT BINDS TO TWICE AS MANY NEURORECEPTORS SO THE EFFECT IS TOTALLY EXTREME!
THE ORIGINAL SAFE, SMOKELESS, DOCTOR-APPROVED ARTIFICIAL TOBACCO!!
I'd like to report a breach of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law!
UM, EXCUSE ME, BUT COULD SOMEONE CALL THE POLICE?
IS THAT LEGAL?! THIS SOUNDS LIKE A SHADY BUSINESS...
swoosh

Shinbashi Clinic
Rustle
GOOD WORK, HASHITA-SAN

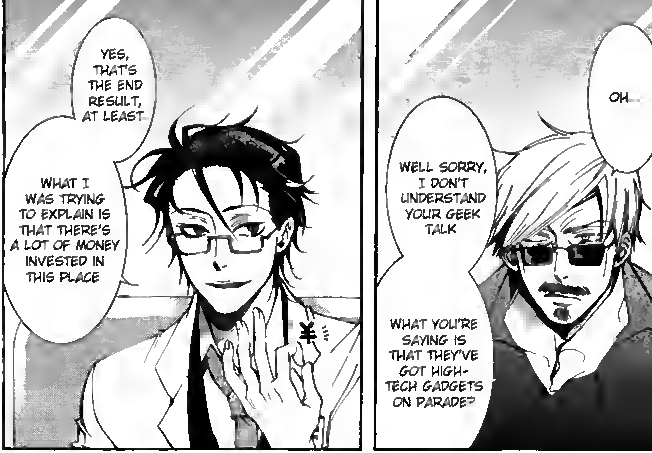
chatter
chatter

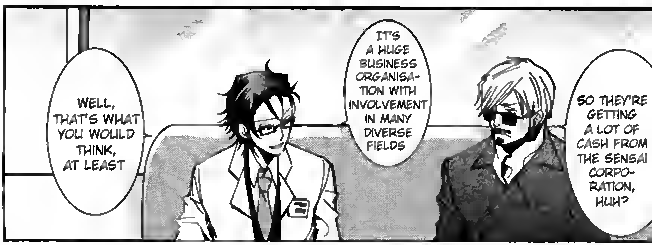
SO HOW DID YOUR EXAM GO?
ANY "ABNORMALITIES?"

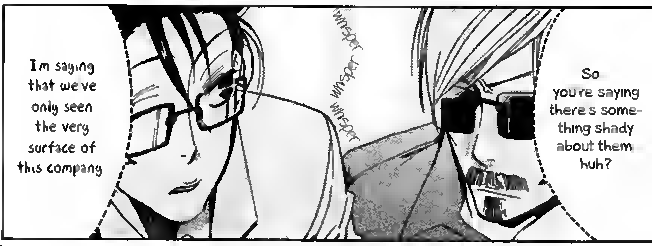

whirrr

I'M HEALTHY, BUT THEY'RE SELLING CRAP LIKE IT'S A HEALTH FOOD EXPO
WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS THIS?
Sit
OH, DID THEY PRESSURE YOU INTO BUYING SOMETHING?

I MEAN, SHOULDN'T THEY TREAT PATIENTS WHO NEED PACEMAKERS AND SERIOUS STUFF LIKE THAT?
SO WHAT? IT'S A LOAD OF CRAP ANYWAY
This fake mustache is itchy...
APPARENTLY THIS PLACE HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS, SO LOTS OF PATIENTS HAVE BEEN COMING FOR HEALTH CHECKS
THEY'VE EVEN GOT ROBOTS RUNNING AROUND HERE
Look at this!
Hmmm.
APPARENTLY, THE ROBOTS GET THEIR POWER AND NETWORK CONNECTIVITY DIRECTLY FROM THE FLOOR - IT MUST BE COVERED WITH SOME KIND OF CONDUCTIVE FILM
tap
tap
WHAT THEY DO HERE ISN'T ENTIRELY SHAM SCIENCE
WELL, ORDINARILY I WOULD AGREE WITH YOU, BUT PERHAPS WE SHOULDN'T BE SO JUDGE-MENTAL...
rustle
Ambasin Clinic Visitor's Guide
BUT WITH SUCH A LARGE-SCALE IMPLEMENTATION AT THIS, THE SENSAI GROUP MUST BE VERY BOLD AND FORWARD-THINKING
THE TECHNOLOGY ITSELF HAS EXISTED SINCE 2006
Listen closely, please
poke
This conversation is getting too technical for me...


YES, THAT'S THE END RESULT, AT LEAST
WHAT I WAS TRYING TO EXPLAIN IS THAT THERE'S A LOT OF MONEY INVESTED IN THIS PLACE
¥
OH...
WELL SORRY, I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR GEEK TALK
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT THEY'VE GOT HIGH-TECH GADGETS ON PARADE?


WELL, THAT'S WHAT YOU WOULD THINK, AT LEAST
IT'S A HUGE BUSINESS ORGANISA-TION WITH INVOLVEMENT IN MANY DIVERSE FIELDS
SO THEY'RE GETTING A LOT OF CASH FROM THE SENSAI CORPO-RATION, HUH?

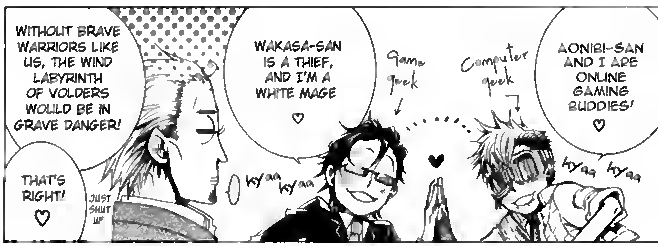

I'm saying that we've only seen the very surface of this company
SWIPE
SWIPE
SWIPE
So you're saying there's some-thing shady about them, huh?

Hana-mi http://hana-mi.net
http://matsuki_manga.livejournal.com/

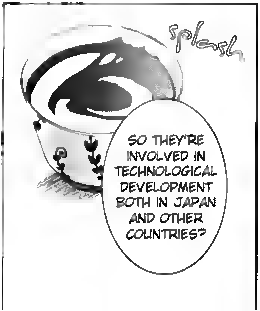
HOW ABOUT I BREAK SOME OF YOUR BONES?
HAHAHAHA
ALTHOUGH YOU DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO BE HOSPITALISED
BUT YES... I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY THAT
Maybe we should break something?
FUFU
WELL, THAT'S WHAT NEE-SAN WILL SAY IF WE RETURN EMPTYHANDED
Is he retarded?
BUT THAT WOULD REQUIRE HAVING A LIST OF ADMISSIONS
Plot Twist
Can't we just interview other patients...!?
C_
And she really would do it
doomed
!
?
人
They really are related... they're both EVIL!
BRAIN BREAK
Come on, shall we get going? ♡
Victory!
WHICH WE ACTUALLY DO HAVE ♡

I WANT YOU IN THAT HOSPITAL, EVEN IF I HAVE TO BREAK YOUR LEGS
SO YOU'VE COME HOME WITH YOUR TAILS BETWEEN YOUR LEGS?
GLA
RE
PROBABLY, BUT I REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHAT THEY'RE UP TO IN THERE.
BUT EVEN IF HE HAD MADE IT IN, IT SURELY WOULD HAVE BEEN DANGEROUS.
I KNEW IT...
IF THEY'RE THAT ADVANCED, THEN DON'T YOU THINK THEY'D BE MORE FAMOUS?
ME EITHER
YEAH. BUT YOU DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS SUCH A HIGH-TECH HOSPITAL.

WITH ALL OF THAT INVESTMENT, YOU'D THINK THEY WOULD BE MAKING A PROFIT, RIGHT?
?
LIKE WHAT?
OR MAYBE THEY'RE SO CUTTING EDGE THAT THEY DON'T WANT TOO MUCH ATTENTION—
tap
tap
SOMETHING STRANGE IS DEFINITELY GOING ON THERE, THOUGH. THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT—
ALTHOUGH THEY'RE IN A SERVICE INDUSTRY, A HOSPITAL CAN'T ADVERTISE LIKE A HOTEL
AND INVESTORS CAN'T AFFORD TO BE PHILANTHROPISTS
WELL, IT IS MY FIELD OF EXPERTISE
YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS STUFF
So pay attention!
Sparkle
GEEK MODE ON!
ONLINE GAMING IS EVEN MORE POPULAR IN KOREA THAN IT IS IN JAPAN
AND THE POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH IN CHINA IS ASTRONOMICAL
Right now, there are at least 250 million net users in China and it's reasonable to expect that to grow by 35% in the near future
JAPAN
CHINA
KOREA
!!
REALLY?
AS FOR SENSAI, THEY'RE RATHER WELL KNOWN IN CHINA AND KOREA


WITHOLIT BRAVE WARRIORS LIKE US, THE WIND LABYRINTH OF VOLDERS WOULD BE IN GRAVE DANGER!
THAT'S RIGHT! ♡
JUST SHUT UP
WAKASA-SAN IS A THIEF, AND I'M A WHITE MAGE ♡
kyaa kyaa
Game geek
Computer geek
AONIBI-SAN AND I ARE ONLINE GAMING BUDDIES! ♡
kyaa kyaa

THEN TRY ACTING LIKE MY WARRIORS - UNLESS YOU'D RATHER BE MY SLAVES FOR ALL ETERNITY?
IF YOU'RE SO INTERESTED IN SUCH FOOLISH THINGS...
ZING


splash
SO THEY'RE INVOLVED IN TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT BOTH IN JAPAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES?

WHAT AN APOLOGY!!!
I HAVE THE PATIENT LIST
TEA, MY LADY?
EVIL
EVIL
EVIL
EVIL

PERHAPS WE SHOULDN'T TRY TO GET INTO THEIR MAIN HEAD-QUARTERS... WE'D PROBABLY GET IN A LOT OF TROUBLE.
BUT IF THEY'RE HIDING SOMETHING, THERE'S A REASON FOR IT.
AND I CAN'T RESIST A SECRET. THEY MUST BE DEVELOPING SOMETHING BIG.
IT'S NOT THEIR CORPORATE HEAD-QUARTERS THAT WE'RE INTERESTED IN, IT'S THEIR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LAB, RIGHT?
BUT WHERE'S THEIR ACTUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS?
THE PLACE KASHITA-SAN WENT TO LOOKED LIKE A NORMAL BUSINESS
IDIOT.
OF COURSE THEY'RE GOING TO KEEP THEIR PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT A SECRET. THEY CAN PUT SALESPEOPLE ANYWHERE
OH.
THAT MAKES SENSE

AS FOR YOU, WAKASA-KUN!
FIND OUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE IN THE INFORMATION BUSINESS KNOW ABOUT SENSAI!
IF NONE OF YOUR CONTACTS KNOW ANYTHING, THEN FIND PEOPLE WHO DO!
AONIBI AND HASHITA, LOOK THROUGH THE HOSPITAL ADMISSION LIST AND FIND PEOPLE WHO WILL TALK TO US.
HUH? WHY DO THEY GET TO DO IT?
Because we don't look like hoodlums
whisper
HAVEN'T YOU ALREADY SCARED PEOPLE OFF?
IF YOU DO FIND ANY EVIDENCE, WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE SURE IT'S USABLE
Gah!
Peep Peep
HASHITA-SAN?

Hana-mi http://hana-mi.net
http://mei-suki.livejournal.com/

HEY, JUNK COLLECTOR! I NEED YOU TO SET UP A PHONE CONNECTION FOR ME!
HUH?
shock
I NEED MAXIMUM SECURITY! ROUTE IT THROUGH TO MY CELL PHONE!

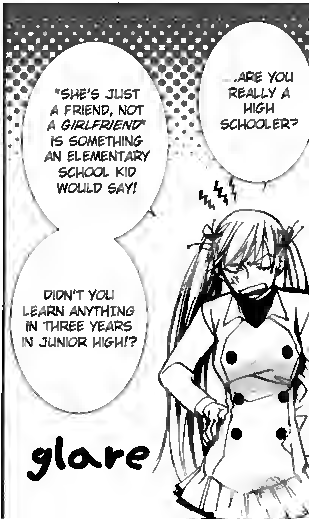
I'VE FOUND AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE
Huh?
chatter
HEY, RIKUGOU, IS THAT YOUR PHONE?

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME
YEAH, HELLO?
OKAY, SURE OH, I REMEMBER YOU!
YEAH
I GUESS THAT'S ALRIGHT SURE
DAMN IT, TOKI, ARE YOU GOING ON ANOTHER DATE!?
huff
STOMP STOMP
Hey!!
shove
bleep
OKAY, I'LL MEET YOU AT S

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MOMIJI!? PEOPLE ARE STARING— WE'RE JUST FRIENDS!
WE HANG OUT SOMETIMES AND THAT'S ALL!
I don't have a girlfriend!

N...no!
You've got it all wrong!
snap
LIAR! YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING - IS THERE ANOTHER WOMAN!?
DON'T BE SELFISH!!
Let me see!

I could dredge up some embarrassing stories from your past...
I'VE ONLY PUT UP WITH YOUR SHIT FOR THIS LONG BECAUSE WE'RE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS
But I mean it!
It's really not a date OK?
Huh?
SMACK
SMACK
You think so?
That Ritsu is a lucky guy
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!


...ARE YOU REALLY A HIGH SCHOOLER?
"SHE'S JUST A FRIEND, NOT A GIRLFRIEND" IS SOMETHING AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KID WOULD SAY!
DIDN'T YOU LEARN ANYTHING IN THREE YEARS IN JUNIOR HIGH!?
glare

I USED TO THINK THAT THE WORLD WAS A HUGE PLACE.
WHEN I WAS LITTLE...
CROWDED CITIES
NARROW STREETS
CHOKED SKY
BUT IT FEELS LIKE IT SHRINKS A LITTLE BIT EVERY YEAR.
...THE WORLD IS ALWAYS SO BORING

LOOK KIDDO
EVEN IF YOU'RE LOST YA AIN'T DEAD YET SO YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO CRY ABOUT!
WHAT'S GOT YA DOWN KID?
PLOP
Wah!
C'MON DON'T CRY
CRYIN'S FOR BABIES.
OR MAYBE...
YOU WANNA COME WITH ME, KIDDO?
HE JUST MADE IT FEEL BIGGER?

I GUESS...
I GUESS THAT PHONE CALL BROUGHT BACK MEMORIES OR SOMETHING...
HEY!
SQUEAK
LONG TIME NO SEE!
I SEE YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED
YOU'RE STILL DRIVING AROUND IN THAT CRAPPY OLD FOREIGN CAR.
Shut up this car is a classic, don't you know?

REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE JUST A SNOT-NOSED MIDDLE SCHOOLER NOW YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL. KIDS SURE DO GROW UP FAST.

YEAH, IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASHITA-SAN.
I WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR FROM YOU! SO WHAT DID YOU CALL ME FOR?

BACK THEN... I THOUGHT THAT EVERY DAY WOULD BE THE SAME.
WELL, IF YOU'VE GOT SOME TIME TO SPARE FOR AN OLD GUY LIKE ME, HOW ABOUT WE GO ON A LITTLE AFTER-SCHOOL DATE?
CASUAL CONTINUITE TO INVESTIGATE SENGOKU AND REUNITES WITH TOKIDOKI IN MODERN TIMES
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
THIS WAS...
JUST MORE OF THE SAME OLD CRAP
桑田 藤枋
SUOH
KUWATA
NO 0342
ZERO SUM
CONTINUED IN APRIL'S
ZERO SUM CON SALE FEB 28!

THAT'S KINDA THE IDEA
UM... SHINONOME-SENSEI, I KINDA CAN'T SEE...
?
.. ..
WOULDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE DEPRESSED OVER BEING KNOCKED DOWN FROM YOUR POSITION AS MAIN CHARACTER AND UNDERHANDEDLY SHOVED TO THE BACK?
Huh?
SO, WERE YOU SURPRISED WHEN YOU OPENED UP VOLUME 5?
AND YOU-KNOW-WHO WOULD GET DEMOTED TO COMIC RELIEF!
WELL, THEN I GUESS IT WON'T BE TOO LONG BEFORE I'M THE MAIN CHARACTER!
Shock!!
NO, YOU SORT OF MISSED MY POINT
Oh that's right! I know what you're talking about! I think Ginshu-san did a great job as the main character!

He's back already!
WHY ARE MINOR CHARACTERS LIKE YOU GUYS ALWAYS HOGGING THE ATOGAKI?
But you're just a pain in the ass...
HEY...
WELL, IT'S NOT MY TURN YET, BUT OH WELL!
THERE'S A CD AND OTHER NEW THINGS COMING SOON!
☆
Smoothly
HUH? HE'S GOT A LOT OF ATTITUDE FOR SOMEBODY PLAYING "PASSERBY A" DOESN'T HE?
OH, SHINONOME-SAN, DO YOU KNOW THAT PERSON?
ARE YOU TWO THROWING MY WORDS BACK IN MY FACE?
WE ALL GOT SHOVED ASIDE WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT!
Oh, really~
...Go ahead, it's okay
Crack

And it's an alternate universe gag story!
It's about a huge party where humans and demons both go wild!
GIVE IT A REST, YOU IDIOTS! I'M TRYING TO ANNOUNCE THE SECOND DRAMA CD HERE! YEAH, WE MADE ANOTHER ONE
AND THIS TIME, IT'S AN ORIGINAL SCENARIO.
hover
hover
Oh wow and he's not even in the Drama CD! How generous of him!
SO LIKE, HE'S HERE TO HELP WITH THE ADVERTISING WHEN YOU'RE NOT HERE.
Oh really? Who is he?
UM, YEAH HE KINDA HANGS AROUND
Hey Tsuyu-kusa-san, do you know that guy over there? He looks like he escaped from a girly dating sim video game
WHAT THE FUCK, THIS IS SOME KIND OF FLUKE!
THIS HAS GOTTA BE KUCHIHA'S FAULT SOMEHOW
Oh no.
Can I hit him?
AND PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO VOLUME 6!
See ya!
FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION, CHECK THE "OBI."
ME AND MY SISTER AND THE PRINCESS AND OTHER NEW CHARACTERS WILL BE MAKING OUR DEBUT IN THIS CD!

< T/N: The obi is a strip of paper with advertising that usually gets wrapped around new manga >

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